



Private Brauereien



# IGA – Italian Grape Ale When Wine meets Beer

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# Where and when it all began

- Beer with fruits, not only chestnut
- Homebrewing experiments
- Beginning of 2000, Baladin, a top fermented beer with Dolcetto and Nebbiolo grape, not for sale



# The pioneers

**Barley**

- 2006, first commercial beer
- BB10, Imperial Stout with cannonau cooked must (sapa)



# The pioneers – Birra Montegioco

- Since 2004, Piedmont region
- Strong link with his homeland, La Nicchia/The Niche



Tibir, with Timorasso must  
Open Mind, with Croatina must  
Iga de Legn, blend of Tibir and Open Mind



# Birth of IGA – Italian Grape Ale

- 2015, first appearance, BJCP guidelines
- 2019, neologism of the year, Treccani Italian dictionary



## Italian grape ale

loc. s.le f. inv. Birra ad alta fermentazione contenente anche una percentuale di uva, mosto o mosto cotto (sapa).

Neologismi, 2019





# IGA – style, non-style

- Different grape varieties, often local (not always)
- Must (free-run, cooked), pomace, grape
- Percentage from 2 to 40, pasteurized or not
- Various addition (boiling, primary or secondary fermentation)
- Various yeasts, beer and wine, conventional or unconventional (from grape skin), solo or combo
- Mainly pils or pale base malt with some special malts
- Mainly German or English hop varieties, low quantities

# IGA – style, non-style

- Grapes may add **freshness** or **complexity** to the beer, depending on grape variety
- Some examples may have slight sour notes as well as delicate oak flavours, not prominent nor overwhelming
- **Elegant, harmonic and balanced**, a twist that helps drinkability



# italiangrapeale.org, the project

- Promoting made in Italy in craft beers
- A map of IGA producers
- IGA Beer Challenge, international competition



[italiangrapeale.org](http://italiangrapeale.org)



# Today's map

- More than 170 breweries in Italy producing at least one IGA (quote: italiangrapeale.org)
- The word «**Italian**» appears on many labels, outside Italy too



# Italian landscape

- 545 different vine varieties available, the highest number worldwide (quote: “Geografia della Vite, IV: la viticoltura italiana”)
- Culture and heritage deeply linked to wine world
- Technique, imagination and creativity
- Close partnerships with winemakers, mutual benefit



# Some beer/wine synergies



**ANCARANI**  
AZIENDA AGRICOLA  
ORIOLO DEI FICHI  
FAENZA ITALIA



**CA' DEL BRADO**  
CANTINA BRASSICOLA



**BIRRA  
DELL'  
EREMO**



**MONCARO**



**SIEMÀN**



**PODERE LA BERTA**



# Birra Gaia, Vineyard

- 2014, Carate Brianza, Lombardia
- Pils malt, wheat
- 100% Barbera free-run must
- 3 different beer yeasts
- Champenoise method



# Other IGAs – «Champenoise Method»

- **Equilibrista**, Birra del Borgo (Sangiovese)
- **Genesi**, Birra dell'Eremo (Verdicchio)
- **Il Tralcio**, Birrificio del Forte (Sangiovese)
- **A testa in giù**, Ibeer (Lacrima di Morro D'Alba)
- **Bella IGA Gold**, Soralamà (Nebbiolo)



# Barley, Maracalagonis, Sardinia

- 11 different IGAs

BB10, Imperial Stout, Cannonau cooked must

BB9, golden strong ale, Malvasia di Bosa cooked must

BB7, golden ale, Moscato di Cagliari grape free-run must

BB6, blonde ale, Malvasia di Cagliari grape free-run must

BB5, saison, Nuragus cooked and free-run must

BB Verblonde, blonde ale, Vermentino free-run must

BB Rednau, amber ale, Cannonau free-run must

BB Boom, Vermentino cooked must

BB Evò, barley wine, Nasco cooked must

BB Arrevescia, Carignano free-run must

BB Anniversario, strong scotch ale, Nasco cooked must



BB7

**Barley**

- Golden ale
- Moscato di Cagliari, aromatic grape
- Free-run must, soft pressed and concentrated



BB9

Barley

- Golden strong ale
- Malvasia di Bosa, aromatic grape
- Cooked must, added in fermentation



# Sapa or saba

Cooked, concentrated must

Grapes

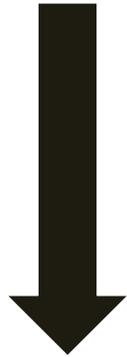
100 kg

Free-run must

50-55 kg

Sapa

10 l



# Local grapes

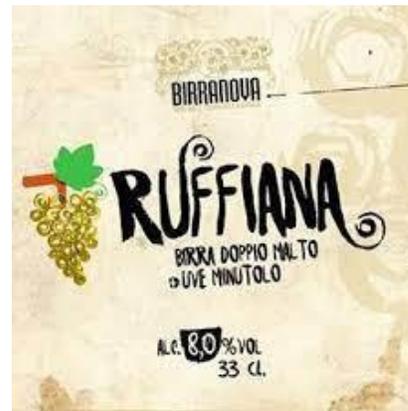
- Reinassaince of some vines, close to extinction in the past, involves Italian Grape Ales too



Trebbiano Spoletino



Foglia tonda



Minutolo



Centesimino



Pallagrello nero

# IGA – Italian breweries – a new generation

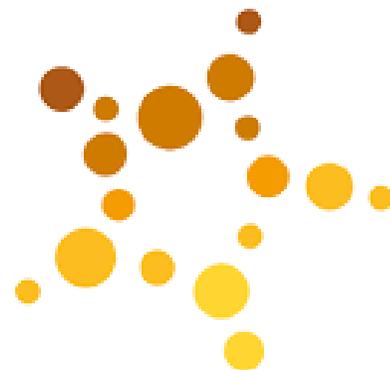
- Crak
- Eremo
- Klanbarrique
- Opperbacco
- Podere La Berta
- Sagrin
- Siemàn
- Sorio
- Sorrento
- Un Terzo



# Thanks



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