

"MY FAMILY IS WRITING A STORY OF SUCCESS, BUT MY SINCEREST WISH IS TO CONTINUE BY FOCUSING ON AUTOCHTHONOUS GRAPE SORTS, SUCH AS RUMENI PLAVEC, FOR I AM CERTAIN THAT SUCH SPARKLING WINES WOULD BE REALLY SOMETHING SPECIAL AND RECOGNISABLE." »MOJA DRUŽINA PIŠE ZGODBO O USPEHU, SRČNO PA SI ŽELIM, DA BI V PRIHODNJE POSVETILI VEČ POZORNOSTI AVTOHTONIM VRSTAM GROZDJA, KOT JE RUMENI PLAVEC, SAJ SEM PREPRIČAN, DA BI TE PENINE POMENILE RESNIČNO NEKAJ POSEBNEGA IN PREPOZNAVNOST.«

Miha Istenič

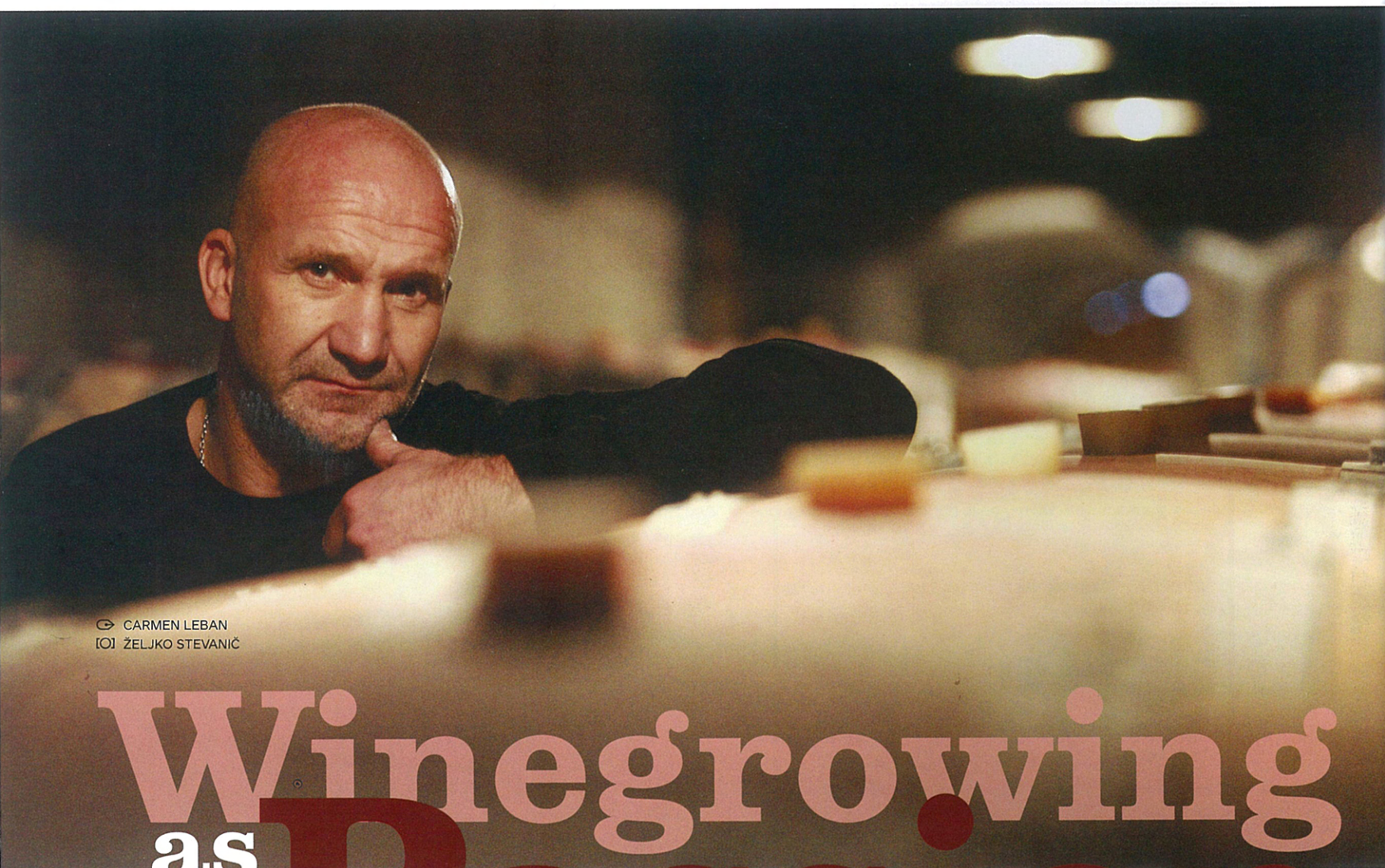


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Winegrowing as Passion

VINARSTVO KOT STRAST

Aleš Kristančič, ki je z vini Movia zaslovel po vsem svetu, sodi med najbolj inovativne slovenske vinarje. Svojo ljubezen do zemlje, trte in žlahtne kapljice potrjuje vsako leto znova in s prav posebnih občutkom to mešanico združi v simfonijo nepozabnih okusov.

Kaj za vinarja pomeni martinovo, kako ga doživljate vi?

„Oprosti, vendar mislim, da bo najin pogovor bolj pristen, če se bova tikala, kot je tudi sicer v moji navadi,“ je bil Aleš Kristančič že na samem začetku najinega intervjuja neposreden in brez dlake na jeziku.

„Alora, nekoč je Martinovo pomenilo mnogo več kot danes. Oblasti so 11. novembra, ko je mošt postal vino, vino obdavčile kot alkoholno pijačo, duhovnik pa je klet 'požegnala' (blagoslovil). Tradicijo izredno spoštujem in menim, da jo je treba negovati in jo ohraniti pred pozabo. To je popolnoma navaden dan v obdobju, ko moram pazljivo spremljati, kaj se dogaja v kleti. Gre namreč za občutljivo fazo, saj je vino treba v pravem trenutku pretočiti in narediti vse tisto, ki je pomembno za kakovost vina. Martinovo doživljam svojevrstno skupaj z obiskovalci, ki nas obiščejo in dajo prazniku poseben pečat.

Aleš Kristančič, whose Movia wines brought him a global fame, ranks among the most innovative Slovenian winegrowers. His love for earth, vine and wines is reconfirmed each year, and it is with a particular feeling that he unites this mixture into the symphony of unforgettable tastes.

Mr Kristančič, what is the importance of St. Martin's day for a winegrower, what does it mean to you personally?

“I am sorry but I think our interview will be more genial if we are on the first-name basis, as is my habit in general,” was the direct and unreserved opening of Aleš Kristančič. “So: the importance of St Martin's Day used to be much greater in the past. On 11 November, when must turned into wine, authorities applied tax to it as an alcoholic drink, while a priest came to bless the cellar. I respect this tradition immensely and believe that it must be nurtured and not forgotten. This is a perfectly normal day in the period when we have to monitor carefully what goes on in the cellar. It is, namely, a sensitive phase, for wine must be transferred to another vessel at the right moment and everything important for the quality of wine must be done. I experience St Martin's Day in a particular way together with visitors coming to us and giving this feast a special mark.



Vino povezujemo z različnimi muzami, s kulturo, s telesom, z romantiko, z veseljem, kdaj tudi žalostjo. Je vino res nekaj, kar ima tako globoko sporočilnost?

Vino moramo dojemati kot darilo stvarnika in pri tem ne smemo zanemariti dveh dejstev – sestavljeno je iz vode, ki pomeni vir življenja, za svoj nastanek pa ne potrebuje nikakršnih dodatkov – vse je v grozdnih jagodah. Pravo vino ne bi smelo vplivati na telo, temveč na dušo. Res pa je, da je vino nepogrešljivo v različnih življenjskih obdobjih, pa naj bodo to veseli ali manj veseli trenutki. Marsikomu pa je vino lahko tudi navdih.

Vidiš kakšno vzporednico med vinom in žensko in med tistim, kar ponujata moškemu?

Za dober odnos med moškim in žensko je potrebna strast, podobno kot se mora strast razviti tudi med kletarjem in vinom. Ženska in vino moškemu pomenita hrano, tako za dušo kot telo – oboje pa moškega oplemeniti in ga naredi srečnega, nenazadnje pa – do obeh moraš imeti spoštljiv odnos.

Ali meniš, da moški žensko lahko očara tudi s kozarcem prvovrstnega vina?

Samo s prvovrstnim vinom, kar pomeni, da moraš zadeti natančno tisti okus, ki obema prija. Včasih se moraš potruditi in dobro razmisliti, kaj boš ponudil. Prednost je, če osebo bolje poznaš, saj hkrati poskrbiš tudi za dušo. Obojega pa bo dalo romantičnemu dogodku pravi sijaj.

Kako ti je kot 'kmetu' uspelo prepričati mestno dekle, da sledi tvojim sanjam, postane tvoja žena in se spopade z delom na kmetiji?

To je bila ljubezen na prvi pogled in priznati moram, da sem imel veliko srečo, saj nisem nikakršen superman. Vesna je na najinem prvem srečanju v tretjem ali četrtem stavku rekla: „Ti boš moj mož,“ pa čeprav sva se pred tem videla le enkrat. Sam sem bil nekoliko skeptičen in jo vprašal, ali ve, kaj jo čaka. Očitno

Wine is associated with different muses, culture, body, romance, joy, sometimes with sorrow, too. Is wine really something bearing such a deep meaning?

Wine must be perceived as a gift of our Creator, and we must not neglect two facts – it is composed of water, which means the source of life, and it does not need any additives - everything is found in grapevines. The true wine should not affect the body but the soul. It is true, however, that wine is indispensable in different phases of life, no matter whether these are joyful or less joyful moments. For many people wine can be inspiration, too.

Can you see any parallels between wine and a woman and between what they can offer to a man?

A good relationship between a man and a woman requires passion, similarly as passion must develop between a wine producer and wine. To a man, a woman and wine mean food, both for the soul and for the body – both makes a man noble and happy, and last but not least, man must be respectful to both.

Do you believe a man can charm a woman by a glass of first-class wine?

Only by first-class wine, which means that he must guess the precise taste pleasing both. Sometimes you must try hard and think thoroughly about what to offer. It is an advantage if you know a person better, for this is when you take care of the soul, too. The combination of both, however, will give the romantic event a true glow.

How did you, as a “farmer”, succeed to convince a city girl to follow your dreams, become your wife and face farm work?

It was love at first sight and I must admit that I was very lucky, for I am no Superman. On our first encounter, Vesna said in her third or fourth sentence: “You will be my husband,” although we had only met once before. I was rather



pa je, da je bila pravi tip ženske, ki se je bila na račun ljubezni pripravljena odpovedati prejšnjemu življenju, celo poklicu, za katerega se je izobraževala.

Kako doživljaš nastanek vina skozi letni čas, od prvih poganjkov na trti do zlahtne kapljice v kozarcu?

Ko se narava prebuja, je usmerjena v velik trenutek – trenutek ljubezni in oplojevanja. Ob tem času je ponavadi veliko padavin, ki v rastlini pogasijo ogenj in potem tudi končni proizvod – tako grozdje kot vino nista tako kakovostna, kot bi si želeli. Narava gre namreč svojo pot in trta je proti njej nemočna. Pri ljudeh je drugače – če v ženski prižgeš ogenj, jo v primeru dežja umakneš pod drevo ali streho in mu dež ne more do živega in zato ogenj ne ugasne.

Se ti je kdaj sanjalo, da bodo vina Movia stregli v najboljših restavracijah v Ameriki, na Japonskem, v Indiji, na Kitajskem, v Rusiji in številnih evropskih državah?

Ko sem kot sedemletni deček nekoč opazoval očeta, kako je razočaran nad slabo letino, sem ga želel potolažiti in rekel – tata, boš videl, da bodo naša vina nekoč pili v Ameriki. Sanje so dovoljene, toda moje so postale resničnost.

Vaše posestvo so obiskale številne ugledne osebnosti, celo predsedniki in kraljevski pari. Kako ti doživljaš takšne dogodke?

Za vinarja je najlepše, ko se dogodki odvijajo v njegovi kleti, v prostorih, kjer je vino doma. Vsak tak dogodek pripomore k temu, da se zaveš, kako pomembna je vinarska tradicija in nekako pokažeš spoštovanje prostorom, ki dajejo zavetje zlahtni kapljici in v katerih se plemeniti vino.

Gospodar je vedno vesel obiskovalcev, ne glede na to, ali so to popolnoma navadni ljudje ali pa znane osebnosti, vsi so dobrodošli.

V poslovnem svetu ti je uspel veliki met in lahko se kosaš z najboljšimi. Je to kaj spremenilo tvoj karakter in odnos do navadnih in preprostih ljudi?

„Midva se pozna že zelo dolgo, zato želim, da na to vprašanje odgovoriš kar sama in poveš, kakšnega me vidiš,“ me s svojim odgovorom presenetil Aleš.

sceptical, asking if she knew what life had in store for her. It is obvious, however, that she was the right type of woman willing to give up her previous life for love, even abandon the profession she had studied for.

How do you experience the production of wine through the seasons, from the first buds on vines to the noble beverage in the glass?

When nature is waking up, it is oriented towards the great moment – the moment of love and fertilisation. This is usually the time of abundant rains which put out the fire in the plant, which means that the final product – grapes as well as wine – is not of the desired quality. Nature goes its own way and vine is powerless against it. It is different in people – if you light fire in a woman, you hide her under a tree or a roof so that rains cannot put the fire out.

Did you ever have a dream about Movia wines being served in the best restaurants of America, Japan, India, China, Russia and numerous European countries?

As I watched my father despair over a bad crop as a 7-year-old boy, I tried to comfort him and said – Dad, you'll see that our wines will be drunk in America one day. Dreams are allowed, but mine have come true.

Your estate has been visited by many illustrious persons, even presidents and royal couples. How do you experience such events?

The best for a winegrower is when events take place in his cellar, in the birthplace of wine. Each such event contributes to the awareness of the importance of winegrowing tradition and pays a certain respect to facilities where wine finds its shelter and becomes rich.

The lord of the estate is always happy to see visitors, regardless of whether these are everyday people or famous persons, everybody is welcome.

Res je, pozna se že zelo dolgo in z gotovostjo lahko trdim, da je Aleš tako preprost in prisrčen človek kot takrat, ko njihova kmetija in blagovna znamka Movia še nista bili tako uveljavljeni kot danes. Gre za človeka, ki ljudi ne loči po tem, kdo so, kaj so in koliko imajo pod palcem. Rad ima tople in iskrene ljudi.

Si človek z izjemno razvito podjetniško žilico, garač, prijeten, ambiciozen, komunikativen in vsestranski svetovljan, nikoli slabe volje, zaposlen cel dan, vsaj pol noči in vedno poln energije. Kako ti to uspeva?

Srečen sem, ker lahko delam tisto, kar me veseli in sem pri svojem delu obkrožen s tistimi, ki so mi blizu in pomagajo ustvarjati našo zgodbo, in to vsak dan od 12 do 15 ur. To so moja žena in otroci, starši in tisti, ki si na naši kmetiji služijo vsakdanji kruh – to zame niso delavci, temveč naši fantje in pupe, s katerimi, če sem doma, kosim za isto mizo in kjer vlada prav prijetno vzdušje, pa še kaj pomembnega se pogovorimo zraven. Kar delam, delam z veseljem. To mi napolni baterije in da potrebno energijo.

Ti si tisti, ki s svojimi odločitvami pripomoreš h kakovosti vina. Je to naravna danost, izobrazba, dediščina, ki si jo podedovali ali preprosto, kdor zna, zna?

Vinar, ki odrašča na tradicionalni vinogradniški kmetiji, ima veliko prednost.

Moj oče je bil neprecenljiv učitelj, ki me je že kot majhnega fantka učil, kako se čisti in pometa klet in me z leti počasi približeval vinu, vzporedno pa tudi vsem delom v vinogradu, česar se nikoli ne naučiš v šoli.

Potem pa si vinar sam izoblikuje osebnost in od vsakega posameznika je odvisno, kako zagreto se dela loti, kako je inovativen in nenazadnje tudi, koliko poguma ima, da se spopade z novimi izzivi.

Kakšna je bila letošnja letina in kako kakovostno bo vino, ki ga bodo poznavalci okušali v prihajajočem letu, 190 let po tem, ko ste se na posestvu Movia zapisali vinarstvu?

Ne vem, ali je to sreča ali usoda – letošnji letnik je izjemen in najboljša vina bodo dozorela čez 10 let, prav v letu, ko bo posestvo Movia zaznamovalo 200-letnico vinarske tradicije. Zasluge za to, da je naše posestvo to, kar je danes, ima več generacij, ki so vseskozi trdo delale in verjele v svojo filozofijo, da na posestvu lahko pridelajo vrhunška vina. Tako kot vsak med nami sem tudi sam ponosen na svoje korenine.

You made it big in the business world and you can compete with the best. Has this changed your character and attitude towards ordinary and simple people?

“We have known each other for a long time, so I would like you to answer this question yourself and tell me how you see me,” was the surprising answer of Aleš. Yes, we have known each other for a very long time indeed and I can assure you that Aleš is just as simple and friendly as he was when his farm and the Movia trademark were not as established as now. He is a person not distinguishing people for who and what they are and how much they have. He likes warm and sincere people.

You are a man of an extremely developed business talent, a hard worker, a kind, ambitious, communicative and all-round cosmopolitan, never in a bad mood, busy all day and at least half of the night, always full of energy. How do you do it?

I am happy to be able to do what pleases me and to be surrounded in my work by persons close to me, who help me create our story, all that from 12 to 15 hours a day. These are my wife and children, parents and people making their daily bread on our farm – for me, these are not workers but our boys and girls with whom I lunch at the same table, where the atmosphere is enjoyable and we can talk about some important things, too. Whatever I do I do with enthusiasm. This charges my batteries and gives me the necessary energy.

You are the one contributing to the quality of wine by your decisions. Is this a natural talent, a result of education, an inherited trait – or simply just a knack?

A winegrower growing up on a traditional winegrowing farm has a great advantage. My father was an invaluable teacher who taught me how to clean and sweep the cellar as a young boy, gradually acquainting me with wine as well as all works in the vineyard which cannot be taught at school. After that, a winegrower forms his personality himself; it is up to each individual how eagerly he undertakes his work, how innovative he is and last but not least, how much courage he has to face new challenges.

What was this year's crop like and what will be the quality of wine tasted by connoisseurs in the oncoming year, 190 years after the Movia estate devoted itself to winegrowing?

I do not know whether this is thanks to luck or fate – this year's crop is extraordinary and the best wines will mature in 10 years, precisely in the year marking 200 years of the winegrowing tradition at the Movia estate. The credit for our estate being what it is today goes to several generations constantly working hard and believing in their philosophy that top-class wines could be grown on the estate. Just like each of us, I am proud of my roots.

