



MOVIA

INTERNATIONAL WINERY OF THE YEAR

FEATURED IN *Wine & Spirit's* WINTER 2011 SPECIAL ISSUE

If you're looking for reference points in the great winemaking regions of the world, here are 60 of the best. From Champagne to Sherry, Barolo to the Hunter Valley, these wineries performed at the top of their regions.

Top Scoring Wines

- 92 '02 Goriska Brds Puro Brut Rosé
- 92 '03 Goriska Brds Veliko Rosso
- 91 '06 Goriska Brda Veliko Bianco

FOUNDED: 1820

WINEMAKER/VITICULTURIST:

Ales Kristancic

ACRES OWNED: 52

ANNUAL PRODUCTION: 12,500 cases

OWNER: The Kristancic family

ESTATE GROWN: 100%

KNOWN FOR: Innovative, non-interventionist winemaking with delicious results.

IMPORTER: Domaine Select Wine Estates, NY

WEBSITE: movia.si

Movia's land floats somewhere between Italy's Friuli (22 acres) and Slovenia's Goriska Brda (30 acres), bisected by the contemporary border that separates the two. Ales Kristancic, who runs this estate, is a romantic in the vineyards, an engineer in the winery and a notorious ballroom-dancing bad boy on the road.

Fascinated by the potential of making the best wine with the least intervention possible, Kristancic has transformed Movia, maintaining the organic farming of his grandfather while developing theories and systems all his own. Rather than pumps, he works with vacuums to gently move the fruit and the must. He assigns a harvest block to every tank, with a corresponding tiny tank into which he picks a small lot from that block a week in advance, allowing a natural fermentation to start. When the block is fully ripe, he selects the middle of that ferment to kick off the newly harvested grapes. His goal is to move as quickly as possible from cutting the grapes off the vine to the start of fermentation, which creates a CO2 blanket protecting the must from oxidation. That eliminates the need for sulfur while maintaining freshness in the fruit.

His current release of Veliko Bianco, '06, blends ribolla (70 percent) with sauvignon and pinot grigio. After 42 months in French oak barriques, the wine is finely integrated rather than overtly woody, its energy more apparent than by any individual flavor of fresh peach, almond or mineral notes. The 2003 Veliko Rosso shares that freshness, a magical outcome in a vintage noted for heat and power rather than the red fruit and refinement of this blend-merlot, pinot noir and cabernet.

For Puro, a reinterpretation of the Champagne method, Kristancic, the engineer, has created an entire tool kit for disgorging the wine, since Kristancic, the romantic, sells it complete with lees. Kristancic, the showman, spends his time on the road training buyers how to disgorge it. All the fuss-and all his personal charm-might be easy to dismiss if his wines weren't so damn delicious. - JOSHUA GREENE



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