

Bortoluzzi

Gradisca d'Isonzo, Province of Gorizia

Owner: Giovanni Bortoluzzi
Winemaker: Giovanni Bortoluzzi
Established: 1982
Location: Gradisca d'Isonzo
Province: Gorizia
Website: <http://www.bortoluzziwines.com>



The Bortoluzzi estate started off in 1982, although Giovanni Bortoluzzi's winemaking vocation had begun long before. A mere 37 years old at the time, he was already at the peak of his career as consultant, bottler and 'wine ambassador' for a number of top growers in Friuli. Giovanni selected a few ideally placed vineyards on the gravelly, mineral-enriched deposit of the diverted Isonzo River. The terrain (presently covering a total of 173 acres, 86.5 of which under vine) included some of the most highly prized land in this privileged winemaking region.

The abundant minerals in the soil make for the grapes' rich components and extract, and for the wines' richness in fruity/floral nuances and varietal character. The vineyards are sheltered by mountains from the raw northern winds, allowing grapes to mature gently in the mild autumn sun. This superb terroir is doubly blessed in Giovanni himself, whose winemaking talent and in-depth knowledge of the region are second to none. Thanks to his additional experience in operating the area's mobile bottling plant, Bortoluzzi can boast to knowing the lie of the land inch by inch, vine by vine... Not that Giovanni would ever boast, for his modesty, simplicity and simpatia are on a par with his brilliance.

"I recall my first harvest, when the children were still quite small," says Giovanni with a smile. "There was a real sense of satisfaction in seeing that those vines, which had been cared for so painstakingly and so long, had rewarded my efforts." As he speaks, you get the palpable sense that vines and children were all part of the family...

True enough, Giovanni has always maintained "the entire family should devote themselves to the winery. A quality product can only be created thanks to everyone's combined efforts." His wife Mireide and their three children have not disappointed him: Alessio is the sales manager, Alberto, an agronomist, the vineyard manager, and Angela deals with administration and accounting - all under the supervision of Giovanni himself, while Mireide's discreet and graceful presence is everywhere vigilant and indispensable.

"Wine is not just any product: in it we find the passion, love and dedication of the people who crafted it," is Giovanni's conclusion.