

WINE TRAIL TRAVELER QUARTERLY



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On the Cover:

The Abbey of Rosazzo

by Terry Sullivan

The Abbey of Rosazzo in Udine, Italy has been making wine for centuries. Now a splash of wine recalls the history and heritage of this site. During our late winter visit, the rose bushes and vineyards were dormant, still resting. The wine though was alive.

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Cover Story

Focus on Friuli, Italy

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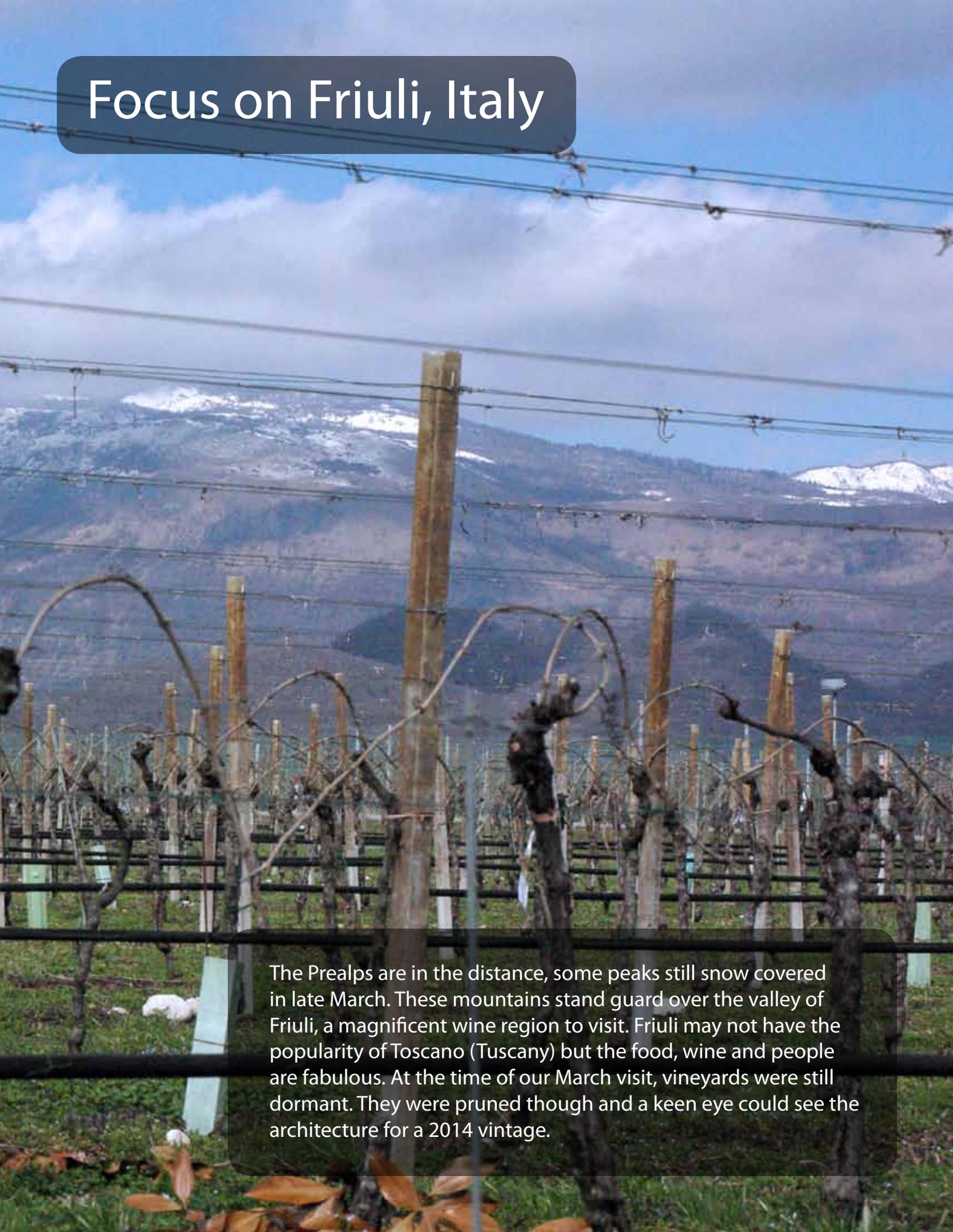
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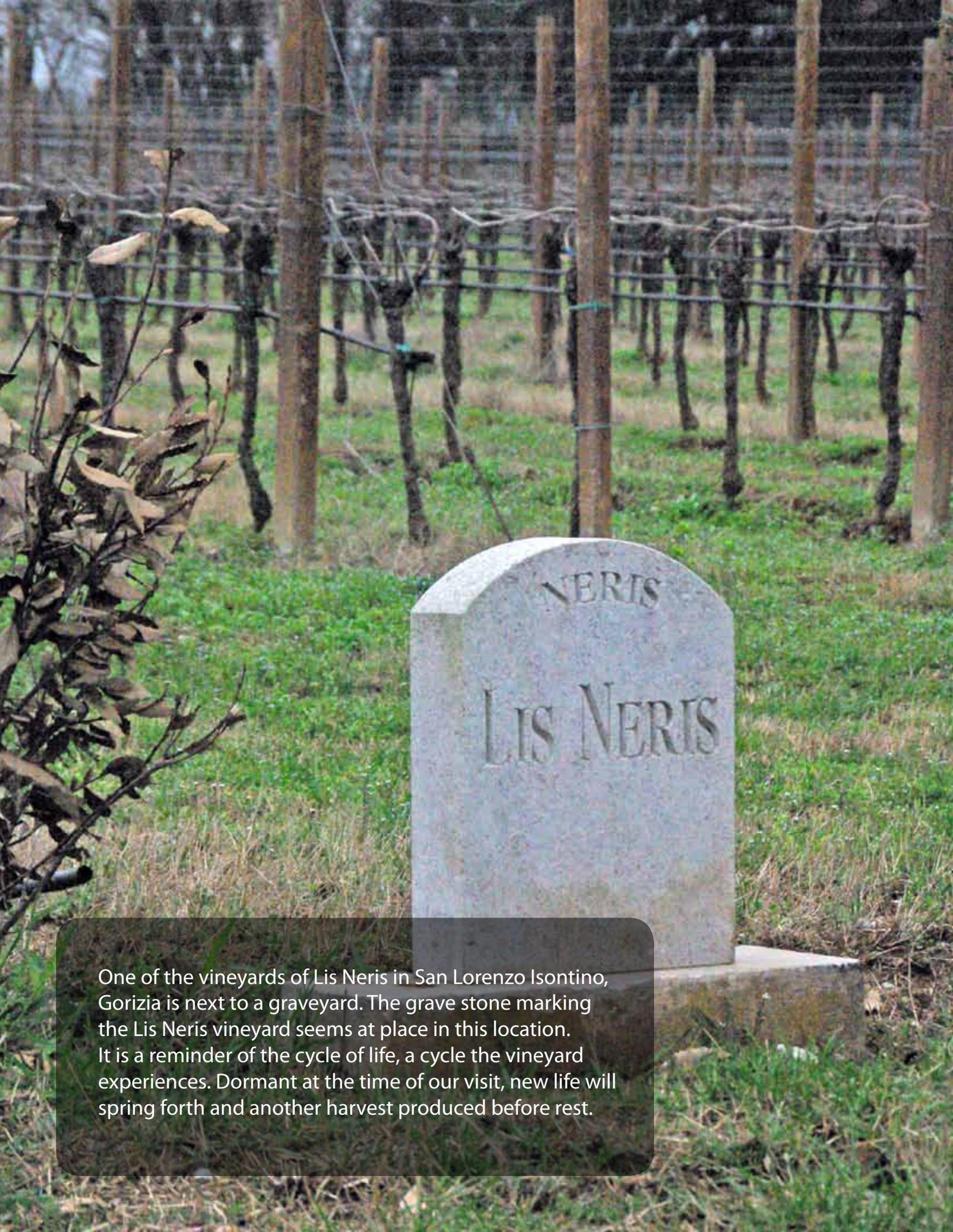
Focus on Friuli, Italy

A photograph of a dormant vineyard in Friuli, Italy. The foreground shows several bare, pruned grapevines supported by wooden posts and black metal wires. The vines are dark brown and appear to be in a dormant state. In the background, a range of mountains is visible, with some peaks covered in snow. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The overall scene is a typical view of a wine region in late March.

The Prealps are in the distance, some peaks still snow covered in late March. These mountains stand guard over the valley of Friuli, a magnificent wine region to visit. Friuli may not have the popularity of Toscana (Tuscany) but the food, wine and people are fabulous. At the time of our March visit, vineyards were still dormant. They were pruned though and a keen eye could see the architecture for a 2014 vintage.



The Comelli Winery in Faedis, Udine is built under a street above it. Two rows of stainless steel tanks lead the eye to the end, a stone wall. Set in the stone is a ceramic image of St. Urbano from France, a protector of vineyards and wine. The old basket press seems at home next to the stone, a contrast to the gleaming stainless steel tanks.



One of the vineyards of Lis Neris in San Lorenzo Isontino, Gorizia is next to a graveyard. The grave stone marking the Lis Neris vineyard seems at place in this location. It is a reminder of the cycle of life, a cycle the vineyard experiences. Dormant at the time of our visit, new life will spring forth and another harvest produced before rest.



The wine cellar of Villa Russiz in Capriva del Friuli Gorizia is a perfect place for a wine tasting. Brick and stone walls give way to a brick curved ceiling. There is an oldness here a flashback to the age of the place.



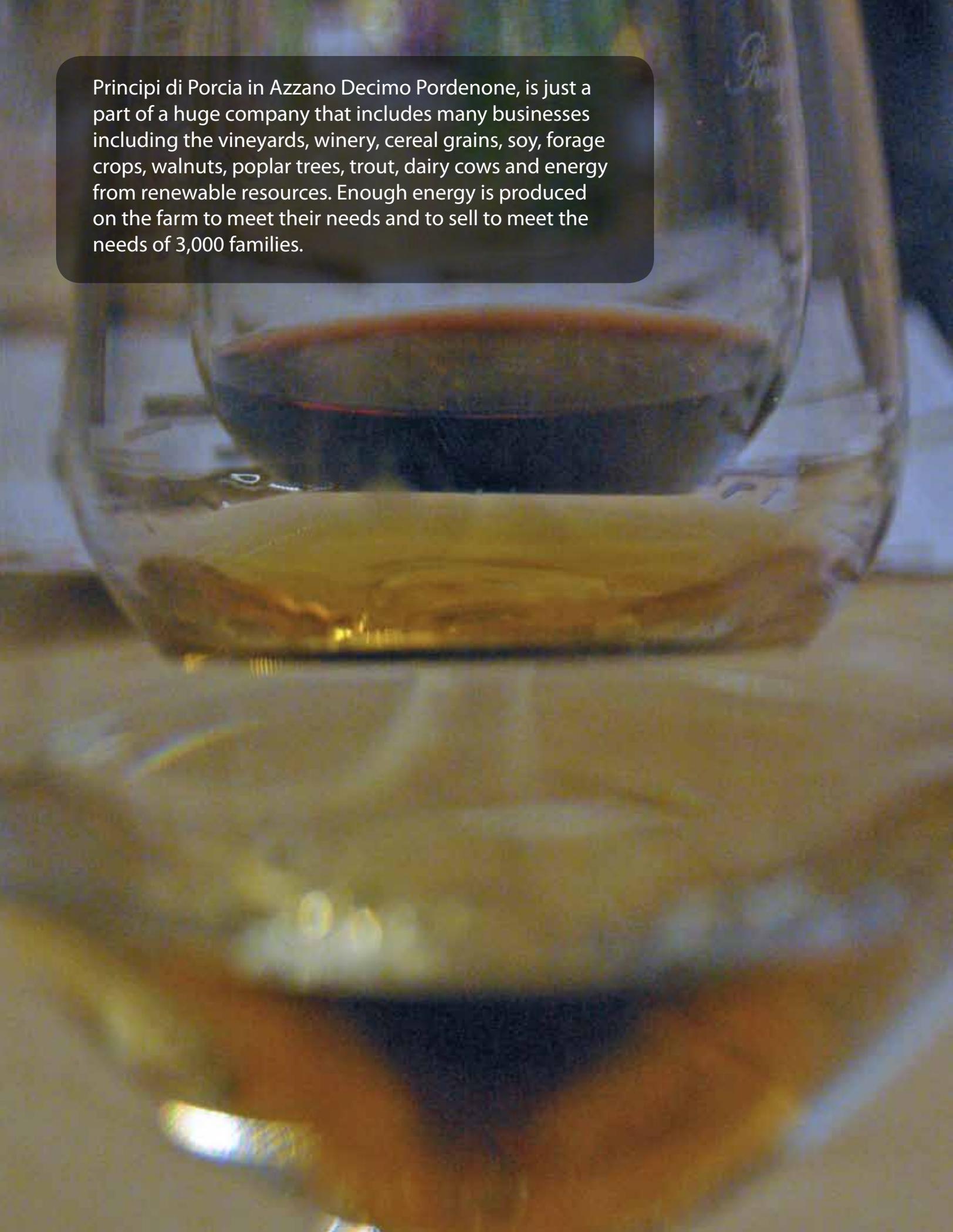
I Comelli Winery in Nimis, Udine is sleek and new. Like many of the wineries visited, I Comelli also offers lodging and a restaurant.



Cantina I Magredi in San Giorgio della Richinvelda, Pordenone is one of the larger wineries visited. They have world-wide distribution and produce over 500,000 cases of wine. Many of our winery visits included food. The Friuli region is known for its Prosciutto that pairs very well with wine.

A visit to Pitars in San Martino al Tagliamento is an adventure. From the top floor in the tower, you have views of the vineyards. In the lower level of the winery, barriques rest as the wines age. The brick walls and floor give an old feeling to this modern facility.





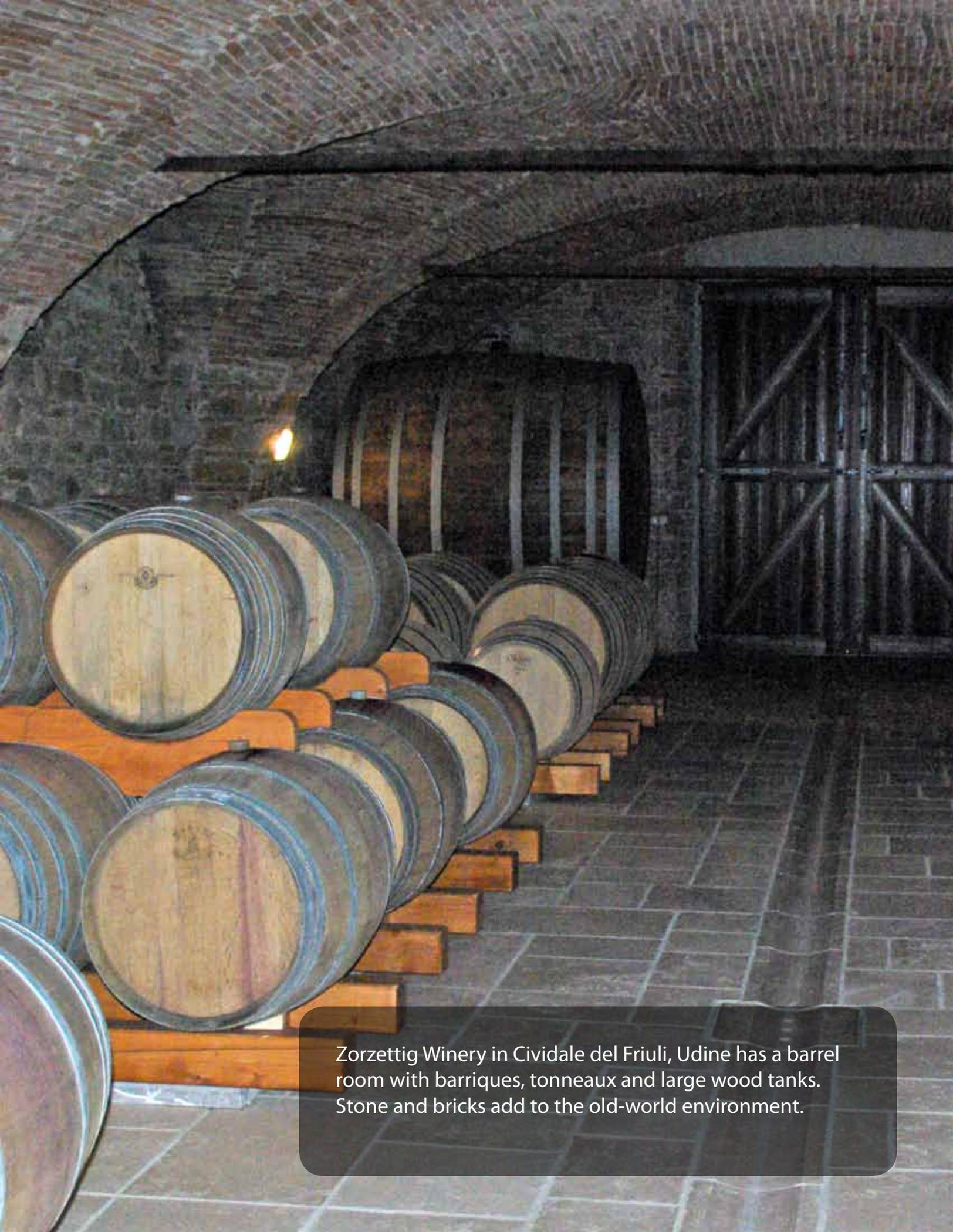
Principi di Porcia in Azzano Decimo Pordenone, is just a part of a huge company that includes many businesses including the vineyards, winery, cereal grains, soy, forage crops, walnuts, poplar trees, trout, dairy cows and energy from renewable resources. Enough energy is produced on the farm to meet their needs and to sell to meet the needs of 3,000 families.

The Abbey of Rosazzo in Rosazzo Udine was built in 1070. Many different religious orders called the abbey home for many decades before it became the residence of the Bishop of Udine. During most of those years, vineyards were tended and wine was made. The cellars are candle lit and give the feeling of oldness. The church has magnificent frescos.



Colorful barrels lining the hallway to the barrel room at San Simone Winery in Porcia, Pordenone were painted by teens. The barrels also have messages about the importance of drinking alcohol properly.





Zorzettig Winery in Cividale del Friuli, Udine has a barrel room with barriques, tonneaux and large wood tanks. Stone and bricks add to the old-world environment.

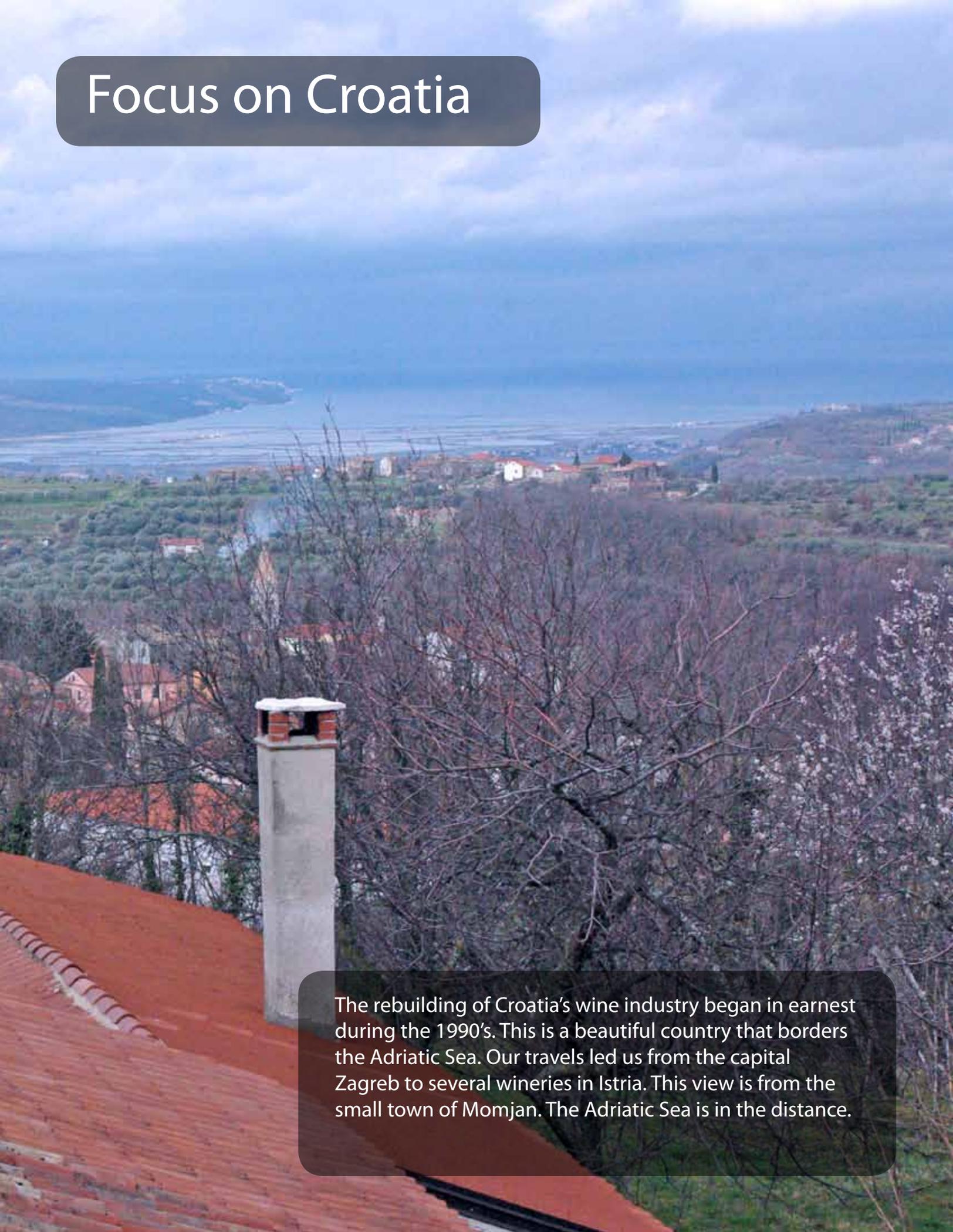
Livio Felluga®

Refosco
dal peduncolo rosso

2009

Livio Felluga in Cormons Gorizia began using a map of the Friuli wine region on their wine labels. Livio Felluga designed a wine bottle label that showed mountains, rivers, castles and towns. This label has endured; its 50th anniversary was celebrated in 2006.

Focus on Croatia



The rebuilding of Croatia's wine industry began in earnest during the 1990's. This is a beautiful country that borders the Adriatic Sea. Our travels led us from the capital Zagreb to several wineries in Istria. This view is from the small town of Momjan. The Adriatic Sea is in the distance.

Korak Winery is in the Croatian Uplands near Zagreb in the town Plešivica. Although the modern wine industry is new, the land has been producing wines since the time of the ancient Greeks and Romans. This pump is operated by hand, an artifact from not so long ago.





Ciban winery is also in the Croatian Uplands in the town of Pavlovčani. Although the winery has eight hectares of recently planted vineyards, this older vineyard with individually staked vines dates back to 1898, some of those vines are still bearing grapes today.



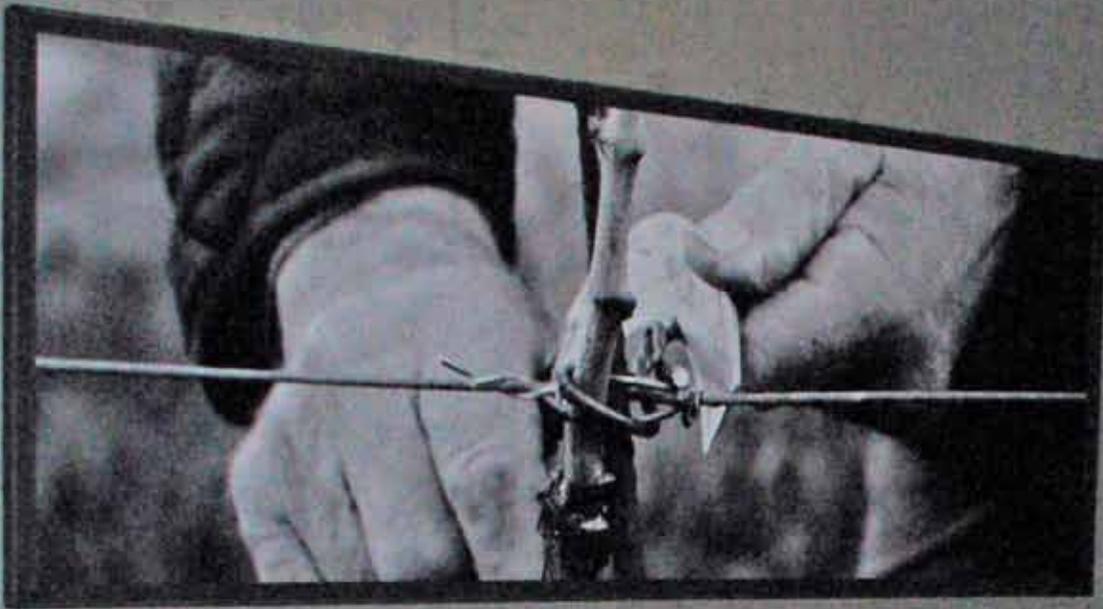
Degrassi Winery in Savudrija is in the Istria wine region. The winery has a collection of artifacts from as long ago as the ancients. Several amphorae rest in wall alcoves in the tasting room. These wine vessels remind you of the thousands of years wines were made in Croatia.



Franc Arman Winery in Vižinada, like many of the wineries we visited, has a degustation for the wine tasting. Wines are paired with various foods, often made by the winemaker or family. Sausage, cheese and bread accompany the different wines.



Kobola Winery in Momjan also has a small room museum of artifacts used in the vineyard and winery. Kobola specializes in the white grape Malvazija Istarska. One production method in vintage years, is to place the grapes in kvevri including the juice and skins. During the fermentation period of two to three weeks, the cap is punched down. Nitrogen is then added to reduce the risk of oxygenation. The wine is left to age on the skins for several months. It is then pressed and added to large oak barrels for another year of aging. The kvevri are buried underground.



Kozlović Winery, also in Momjan, is a modern facility that reminds winery workers that the wine begins in the vineyards. Barriques line the barrel room, black and white photos add to the atmosphere showing the story that began in the vineyard.

Matošević Winery in Sveti Lovreč uses concentric circles for their logo. This logo becomes hypnotic and can be seen on wine bottles and the walls of the winery building. Different label colors indicate if wines were produced in stainless steel, oak barriques or acacia barriques.

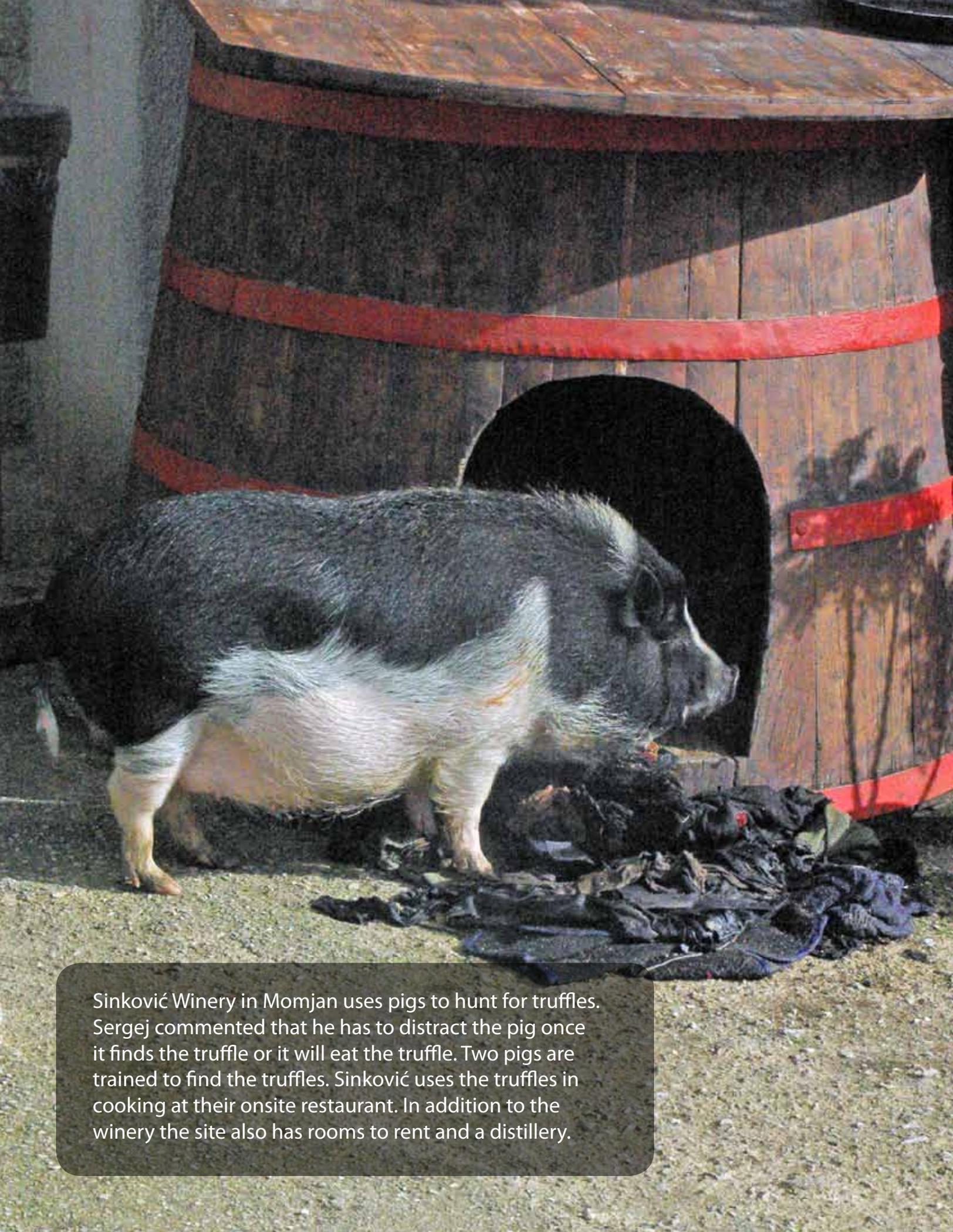




Meneghetti Winery in Bale is not just about the wine. The estate also has olive trees, a restaurant and rooms for rent. The wine tasting experience is best when paired with food. A unique dessert was made with olive oil (bottom) ice cream, chocolate and sea salt. Delicious!



Housed in a 150-year-old stone building, a visit to San Tommaso Winery is an experience to remember. Great care was taken in restoring the building in keeping with the Croatian authentic style. While the structure is old, inside the gleaming stainless steel tanks are in stark contrast.



Sinković Winery in Momjan uses pigs to hunt for truffles. Sergej commented that he has to distract the pig once it finds the truffle or it will eat the truffle. Two pigs are trained to find the truffles. Sinković uses the truffles in cooking at their onsite restaurant. In addition to the winery the site also has rooms to rent and a distillery.

Focus on Long Island, New York



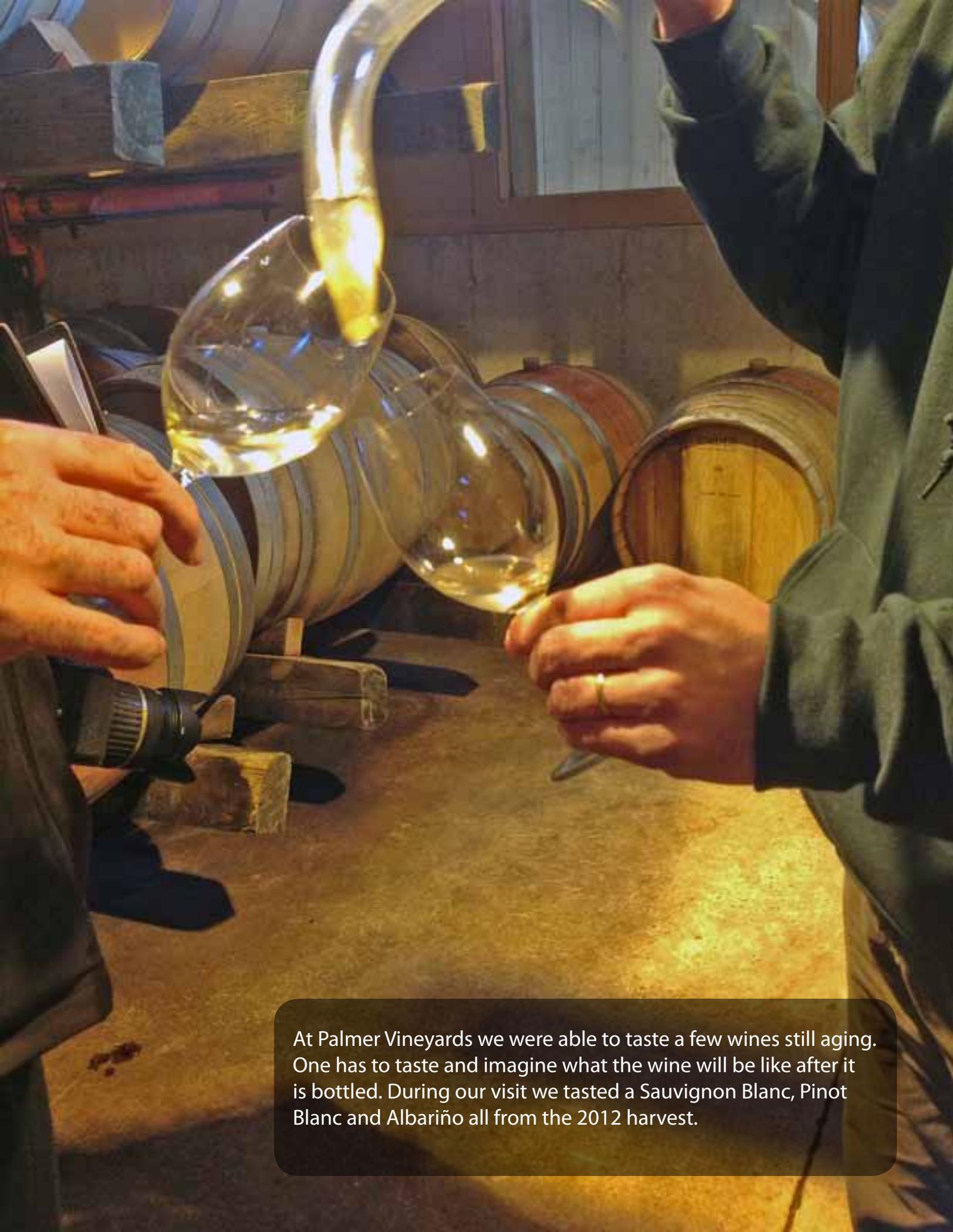
Lieb Cellars recently opened their newest tasting room along the North Fork. Visitors can order crostini, which they can enjoy with wine. These colorful and flavorful appetizers are carefully prepared onsite and made with many New York State products.



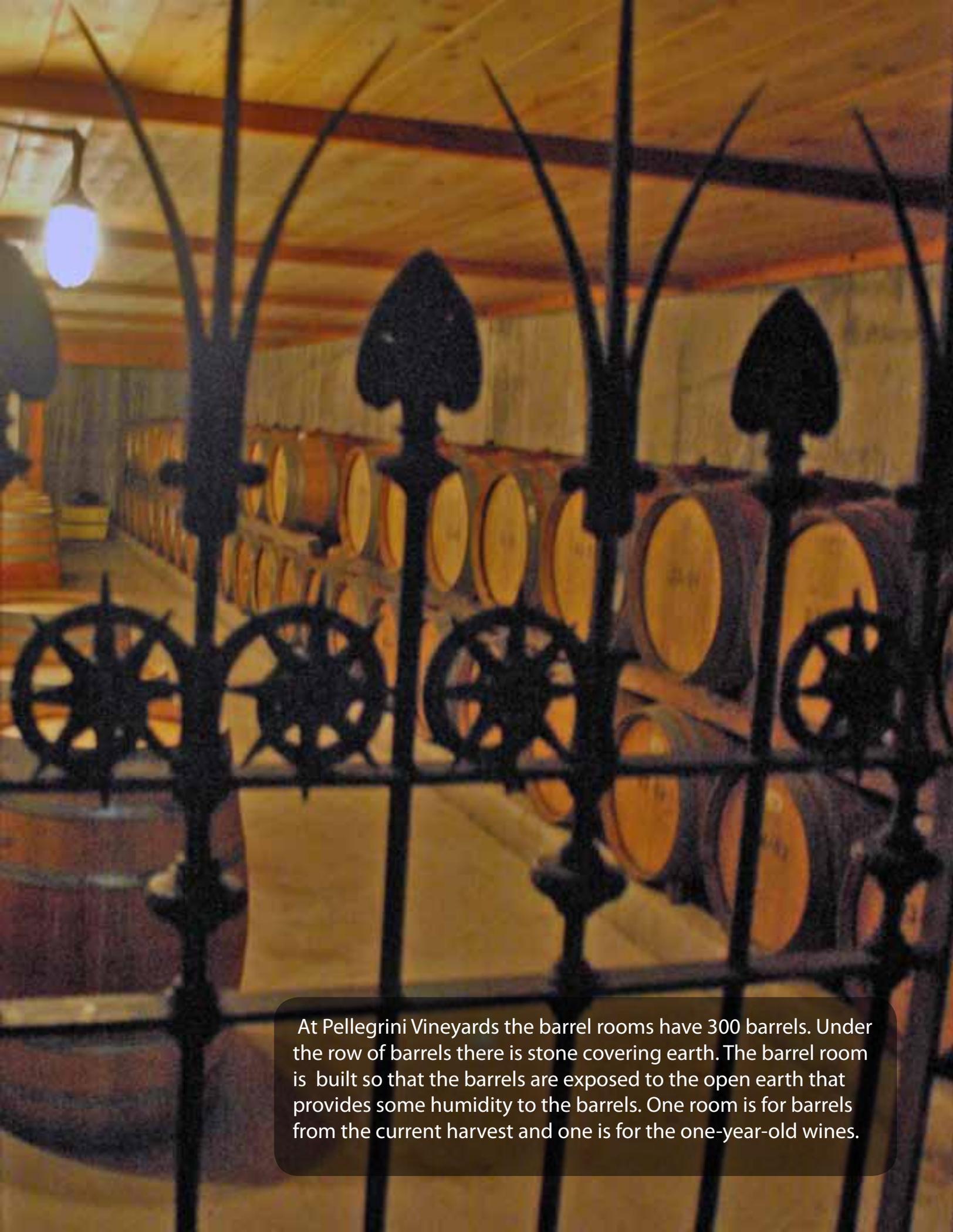
Not only a winery, Baiting Hollow Farm Vineyard also rescues horses and saves them from being sent to a slaughterhouse. To date, due to the work of the family, 32 horses have been saved from slaughter including Thoroughbreds, Arabians, a Clydesdale, a Paso Fino and miniature horses and ponies.



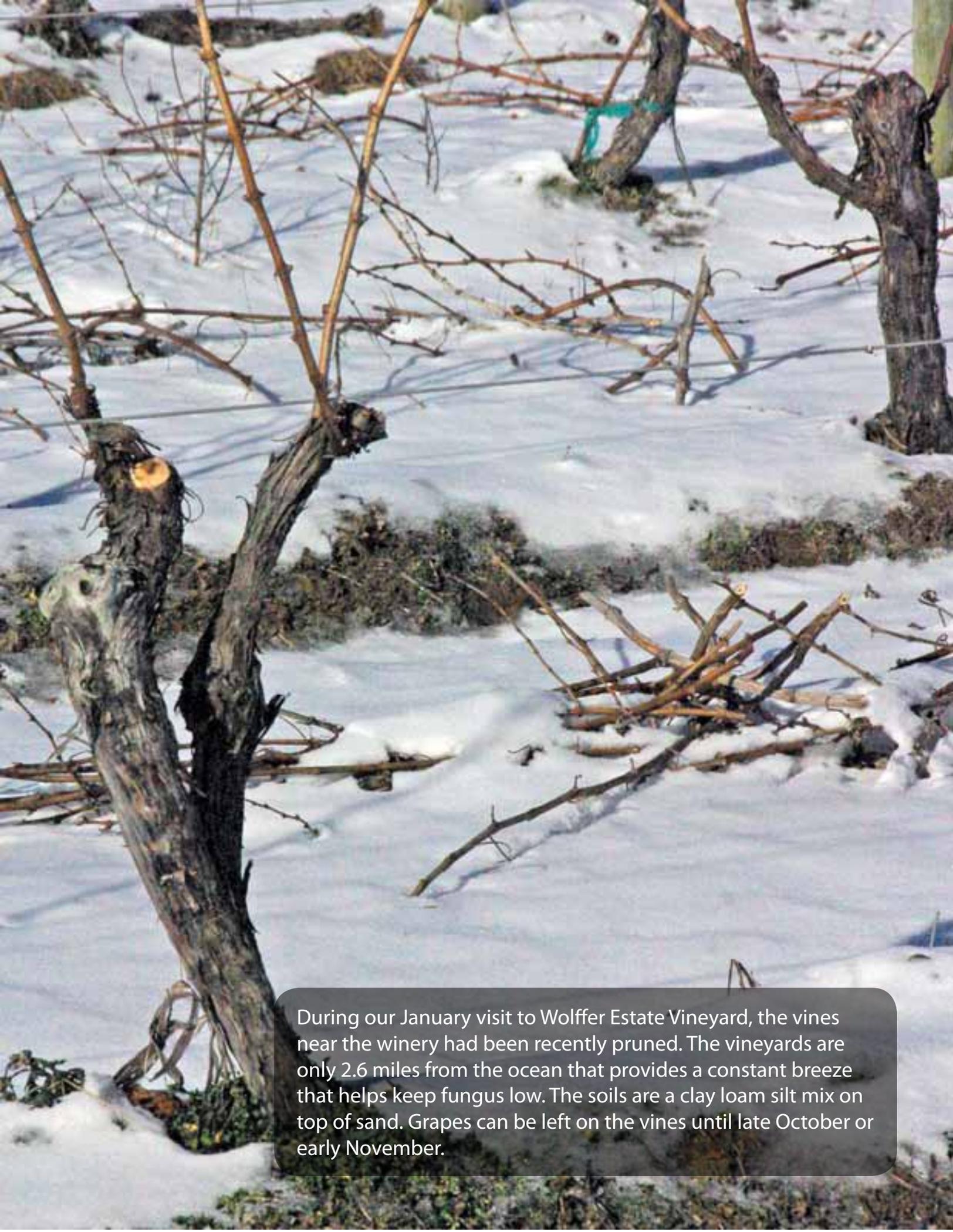
Osprey's Dominion Vineyards is a wonderful winery to visit. The modern style tasting room sits on the main vineyard site. Osprey's Dominion Vineyards is known for having the largest variety of grapes grown on Long Island. Outdoor activities make Osprey's Dominion a great place to bring the family.



At Palmer Vineyards we were able to taste a few wines still aging. One has to taste and imagine what the wine will be like after it is bottled. During our visit we tasted a Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Blanc and Albariño all from the 2012 harvest.

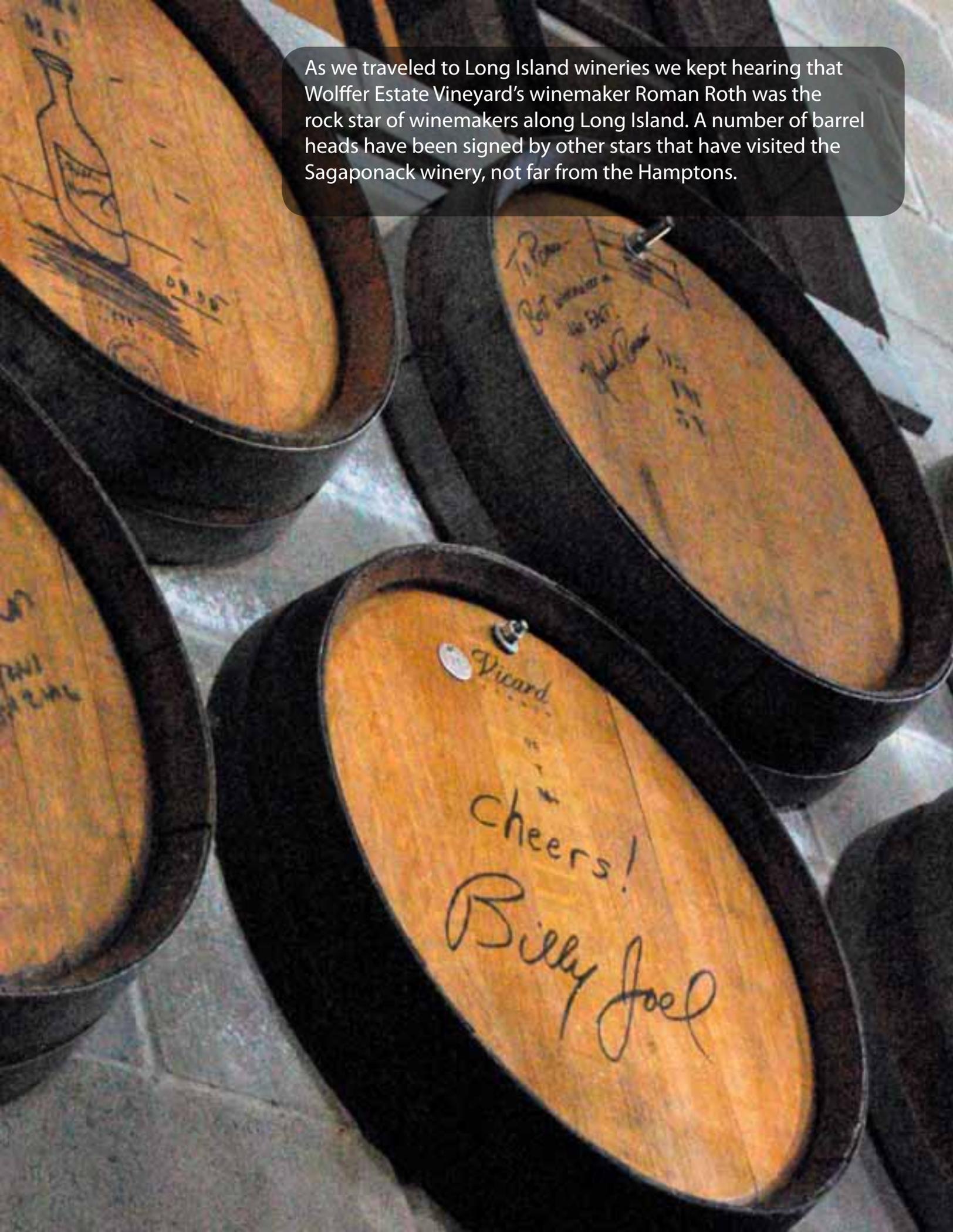


At Pellegrini Vineyards the barrel rooms have 300 barrels. Under the row of barrels there is stone covering earth. The barrel room is built so that the barrels are exposed to the open earth that provides some humidity to the barrels. One room is for barrels from the current harvest and one is for the one-year-old wines.



During our January visit to Wolffer Estate Vineyard, the vines near the winery had been recently pruned. The vineyards are only 2.6 miles from the ocean that provides a constant breeze that helps keep fungus low. The soils are a clay loam silt mix on top of sand. Grapes can be left on the vines until late October or early November.

As we traveled to Long Island wineries we kept hearing that Wolffer Estate Vineyard's winemaker Roman Roth was the rock star of winemakers along Long Island. A number of barrel heads have been signed by other stars that have visited the Sagaponack winery, not far from the Hamptons.



Wine and the Bible

False Prophets and Bearing Fruit

by Meghan A. Neumeier

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus presents His teachings to crowds of people in what is known as "the Sermon on the Mount." Jesus' sermon begins with a series of statements called the Beatitudes ("Blessed are the..."), which describe attitudes and actions that can bring about happiness. The sermon ends with a warning about false prophets and a reference to grapes. Jesus says, "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but underneath are ravenous wolves. By their fruit you will know them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?" (NAB, Matthew 7:15-16). I believe we can learn two important lessons from this passage.

The first lesson we can learn concerns false prophets. You may be thinking to yourself, "False prophets? Real prophets don't even exist today!" Our modern conception of prophets is different than the biblical understanding. In biblical times, the main role of a prophet was not to predict the future but to be a spokesperson for God. False prophets, then, preached "truths" that were contrary to God's teachings. Today, there are many "false prophets" that can distract us from hearing God's voice. These false prophets could include the media (i.e. that football game that keeps us away from church on Sunday), individualism (our "me, me, me" mentality that prevents us from putting others first), busyness

(our fast-paced, hectic lifestyles that don't leave room for prayer), or technology (our constant need to be plugged in, which hinders our ability to quietly listen for God's voice in our hearts). These false prophets are not necessarily bad in their own right, but they can distract us from making room for God in our lives. Maybe the next time we reach for that new app on our smart phones, we can decide to take five and pray, instead.

The second lesson we can learn from Matthew 7:15-16 concerns bearing fruit. Jesus says, "By their fruits you will know them." It might be helpful for us to turn this around so it reads, "By our fruits they will know us." This is another way of saying, "Actions speak louder than words." John picks up on this theme in his Gospel, too. Shortly before Jesus is arrested, He shares His "Farewell Discourse" with His disciples. In this speech, Jesus calls His disciples "friends" and tells them that He loves them. Jesus also encourages them to bear fruit. In John 15:5, Jesus says, "Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing." Then, in John 15:8, Jesus adds, "By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples." Then again, in John 15:16, we find, "It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you." These



verses contain three gems of wisdom: 1. we can't do anything without Jesus, 2. we glorify God by bearing good fruit, and 3. if we bear a lot of fruit, then God will provide for us. What is this good fruit we should yield in our lives? Paul makes this clear in Galatians 5:22-23, where he lists the fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

As any viticulturist can attest, growing good fruit isn't easy. It requires practice and patience. So does resisting "false prophets." Jesus, however, isn't calling us to take the easy way out. He is calling us to be the best versions of ourselves we can possibly be.

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304-667-8843

Next Issue

We will publish our Summer issue in late July. The focus articles will present three wine regions in France: Champagne, Burgundy and Bordeaux. We are making the trip with a group organized by Washington State University. We traveled to New Zealand on the first WSU wine region trip in 2010 and look forward to exploring these great wine regions.

On the Back Cover

Fernanda Cappello Winery in Sequals, (PN) - Italy

They say wine is made in the vineyard. This photo was taken at Fernanda Cappello Winery in Sequals, (PN) - Italy. The vineyard, still dormant, is seen through the wine. In the distance the Prealps stand guard over the valley protecting it from the coldest of winds. In this instance, we really did drink a vineyard in a glass.



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