



KERMIT LYNCH WINE MERCHANT

## PALAZZO ROSSO DI SOMMARIVA CATERINO

Country: Italy

Region: Veneto

Appellation(s): Prosecco di Conegliano-Valdobbiadene  
Superiore

Producer: Caterino & Cinzia Sommariva

Founded: 1965

Annual Production: 15,000 cases

Farming: Sustainable

Website: [www.sommariva-vini.it](http://www.sommariva-vini.it)

For several generations the Sommariva family worked the vines on the high plains of the Veneto, growing a mix of French and local varieties and selling off most of their crop as was common practice at the time, but it was Caterino Sommariva who pinpointed the slopes as the best place for vines and began purchasing hillside vineyards together with his wife Urbana in the 1970s. The couple also had great faith in the Prosecco varietal (now known by its historical name, Glera) and decided to plant it exclusively on their new property, which gradually grew as they continued to snatch up adjacent parcels over the years. This great foresight put them in a very advantageous position when Prosecco and the hills of Conegliano and Valdobbiadene began to gain recognition in the late '80s for the light, clean sparkling wine we know so well today. Caterino and Urbana's daughter Cinzia remembers watching her parents work and thinking as a child how hopelessly difficult the harvest seemed; so she chose another path in life and pursued studies in marketing. As she got older, though, she regularly returned to the estate and began to see her parents' work through different eyes, slowly discovering her own passion for the hard work of winemaking. She eventually joined them and has since become a dynamic and enthusiastic partner in the estate.

The name Palazzo Rosso, meaning red building or palace, is a historic epithet for the zone that refers to the russet color of the earth here due to its high content of iron and other micronutrients. Despite Prosecco's reputation for being light and easy, the Sommarivas take their work very seriously, adhering to eco-friendly practices in the vineyards, harvesting manually, and keeping a very close watch over the vinification process while many of their neighbors settle for easier methods and mediocre wine. These are perfectionists who only sit back once the work is done and it's time to enjoy the delightfully fresh, elegant fruits of their labor.



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## PALAZZO ROSSO DI SOMMARIVA CATERINO

(continued)

| <u>Wine</u>  | <u>Blend</u>  | <u>Vine Age</u> | <u>Soil Type</u>            | <u>Surface</u> |
|--|---|-----------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Prosecco di Conegliano-Valdobbiadene Superiore Brut</b> | Prosecco<br>(now referred to by its ancestral name, Glera)* | Up to 25 years  | Mineral-rich and Rocky Clay | 35 ha          |
| <b>Spumante Rosato Brut “Il Rosa”</b>                      | 60% Raboso,<br>40% Pinot Nero                               | 5 – 15 years    | Mineral-rich and Rocky Clay | N/A            |

### VITICULTURE / VINIFICATION

\*NOTE: In August 2009, upon receiving its own D.O.C.G., the Consorzio per la Tutela del Prosecco di Conegliano-Valdobbiadene made the decision to revert the name of the grape, Prosecco, to its ancestral name, Glera. Balby and Cosmo were the two original clones of Glera. Cosmo was more widely used because it gives a higher yield. Today there are a number of other clones in addition to these two, but Balby is still one of the best because it has a low yield, retains higher acidity, and gives better “classic Prosecco” aromatics.

#### **Prosecco di Conegliano-Valdobbiadene Superiore Brut:**

- Vines are sustainably farmed, the equivalent of *lutte raisonnée* in France
- Grapes are “Balby” selection
- Hand harvesting
- All vinification in stainless steel
- Grapes are de-stemmed and gently pressed, then the must is left at 48-50°F for about 12 hours to allow the heavy deposit to settle; the clear must is then drawn off and fermented
- Fermentation lasts for 15-20 days
- Yeasts and sugar are added to trigger the second fermentation which lasts about one month

#### **Spumante Rosato Brut “Il Rosa”:**

- Raboso is an indigenous grape variety very rich in acidity
- Vines are sustainably farmed, the equivalent of *lutte raisonnée* in France
- Vines are in Conegliano common, immediately outside the Prosecco Superiore area
- Hand harvesting
- Direct press
- All vinification in stainless steel
- Does not undergo malolactic fermentation
- Grapes are de-stemmed and gently pressed, then the must is left at 48-50°F for about 12 hours to allow the heavy deposit to settle; the clear must is then drawn off and fermented
- Fermentation lasts for 15-20 days
- Dosage 12 grams/liter