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Travel

Impeccable Italy: The Prosecco Region

Ann Abel Contributor | Jul 16, 2019

Some years ago, in a somewhat controversial move, the Italian government decided to allow makers of sparkling wine anywhere in the northeast of Italy call their product prosecco. Some of this is very nice sparkling wine. But Prosecco purists will tell you that it's not Prosecco.



I learned this when I visited the original Prosecco region, a small geographic area between the towns of **Conegliano and Valdobbiadene**, which is best identified by its crazy-steep hills. Here, at the Marchiori winery, I was schooled on the differences between a good sparkling wine and a proper Prosecco. (In a nutshell, look for the designation **DOCG** or the name **Valdobbiadene** on the label.)

I sampled some very nice Prosecco in very good company. The Marchiori family also leads the tastings, meaning that some days, the young winemaker, Umberto, sits down to sample with visitors. If you sweet-talk him enough, he might pop open one of his experiments.

It's worth visiting the Prosecco region. It's only about an hour from Venice, making it a good day trip if you want to escape the crowds. It's also in the foothills of the Dolomites, making it a good stop if you're heading toward Cortina for skiing or hiking. (My visit was a hosted extension of a hiking trip with the luxury adventure outfitter Dolomite Mountains.)



Prosecco vineyards ANN ABEL