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Travel

Wine Tourism: Sip The Sparkling Wines Of Veneto

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The Veneto wine region of northeast Italy is best known for its sparkling Proseccos. But this region (whose capital is Venice) produces a variety of magnificent sparkling wines that differ in terms of both the grapes and the production techniques used to make them.

In Veneto, wine tourists can visit wineries steeped in history and culture while they soak in breathtaking landscapes, and sip sparkling wines at wine cellars, tasting rooms, and local restaurants. They'll find winemakers eager to share stories about their land and its history, and explain their wines.

"Prosecco's wild success has overshadowed other sparkling gems from the Veneto region to the extent that it's even surpassed sales of Champagne in volume," notes Torcoli. Versatile, easy-to-drink, and eminently affordable, he estimates that more than one-half billion bottles of DOC and DOCG Prosecco are sold annually.

Torcoli traces Prosecco's meteoric rise in popularity to the approval of DOC Prosecco in 2009. "This divided it from the traditional Prosecco from Conegliano Valdobbiadene (DOCG Prosecco produced only in limited quantities in the area of Treviso)," he says. "Its success has been sustained by its availability; now, you will find it everywhere, the USA included," he says.