

Sustainability Report

2018

This Sustainability Report has been drawn up from
the property and from the employees
of the Azienda Agricola Gualberto Ricci Curbastro & Figli S.S.,
in order to share the results of their constant efforts for
a sustainable vine-growing and wine-making.

OUR MISSION

he Ricci Curbastro family has centuries-old agricultural traditions represented by the Rontana estate in Brisighella (RA) and by the homonymous Capriolo estate in Franciacorta. The latter produced bottled wines as early as the 1800s as evidenced by labels from 1885 still preserved. It was transformed by Gualberto Ricci Curbastro into a modern wine company since 1967, the year of establishment of the D.O.C. Franciacorta. Of the 32 hectars of company surface 27 are invested in vineyards and another 3 new hectares are expected by 2020.

The company practices organic agriculture as a natural continuation of the various environmental impact reduction practices that began over thirty years ago. Since 2017 it has been among the first nine companies in Italy, first in Lombardy, certified as a "Sustainable Company" according to the Equalitas standard for its commitment in environmental, economic and social terms.

The cellar where the fermentations and slow maturation of the Franciacorta DOCG are carried out is built underground in a vast secular park. The vinification is followed by the oenologists Andrea Rudelli, Annalisa Massetti and Riccardo Ricci Curbastro, a mix of experiences for wines intended for the increasingly demanding palates of consumers all over the world. The company's production is well represented not only by the Franciacorta DOCG but also by the Curtefranca DOC and Sebino IGT wines.

The Agricultural and Wine Museum is located inside the farmhouses of the Ricci Curbastro estate, a unique reality in Franciacorta that preserves thousands of objects that tell about the agricultural work of the past. Inaugurated in 1986, it is the result of meticulous research that began more than thirty years earlier by Gualberto Ricci Curbastro. Four rooms, divided into themes that can be visited upon reservation in order to be able to accompany you and tell you about our past and today work.

---1885 -----1967-----1986 -----2017----

The Ricci Curbastro estate starts producing bottled wines

Gualberto Ricci Curbastro with ten others producers founds the Franciacorta DOC

The Agricultural and Wine Museum is born

First estate in Lombardy certified as "Sustainable Winery" (Equalitas standard)



With the aim of continuing the path started in 2017 with the SOPD Equalitas certification - SUSTAINABILITY OF THE WINE-GROWING CHAIN: ORGANIZATIONS, PRODUCTS, DESIGNATIONS OF ORIGIN (SOPD) and in light of the results obtained

- in optimizing costs
- in satisfying employees and customers
- · respecting the environment
- enhancing the company's products

the management has decided to commit itself also for 2018 in order to further implement the improvement actions envisaged by the Equalitas standard.

THE SUSTAINABILITY TEAM:

Riccardo Roberto
Gualberto Giacomo
Annalisa Giuseppe
Evelina Luciano
Lisa Nicola





"I grew up in a world divided between ancient values - tradition, countryside to be preserved, products increasingly linked to our homeland - and marketing lessons that started from the 4P (product, price, positioning and promotion)" recalls Riccardo.

Today we face a 3P marketing (Profit, People, Planet) that finally seems to reconcile our traditional roots and the value, we have always given to our land and our people, with the business objectives.

Finally, the company and its environmental, social and economic sustainability are seen as a whole, an added value to the passion that we already put in each of our bottles of wine.

The growth of our commitment to the certification of the SOPD Equalitas sustainability standard is represented for 2018 by the survey on soil biodiversity, what is more hidden than life existing in the soil? Discovering it is a fundamental element for us to measure the effectiveness of over 25 years of low environmental impact agriculture followed by 5 years of organic cultivation. How is that soil where the roots of our vines live?

In fact, we cannot forget that "wine is the blood of the earth" (Ga-

lileo Galilei, Letter to Count Lorenzo Magalotti) is therefore a symbol of life force, of life itself "sun captured and transformed by such an artificial structure as the grain of grape, wonderful laboratory in which operate devices and powers designed by an occult and perfect clinician. The wine is a liquor of the highest magisterium composed of humour and light, thanks to whose virtue the intelligence becomes illustrious and clear, the soul expands, the spirits are comforted ... "

We hope that reading the Ricci Curbastro's 2018 Sustainabili-



ty Report, a natural evolution from that of 2017, you will also be passionate about our investigation of the talents that underpin our wines and that day-to-day work which leads to a more sustainable world. A job that starts from the earth to get bottled.



That is the concrete commitment of the Gualberto Ricci Curbastro & Figli s.s. for...

BIODIVERSITY

In the month of DECEMBER 2018 WBA Project Srl, a company controlled by the World Biodiversity Association non-profit organization, verified the biological quality of soil, water and air of wine-growing sites in Capriolo (BS), by applying the Biodiversity Standards of the **Protocol "Biodiversity Friend®".**

The environmental aspects of the Equalitas Protocol are assessed, in relation to biodiversity, by applying the procedures provided by the so-called "Biodiversity Indices", developed in 2010 by WBA non-profit organization for the assessment of biodiversity conservation in agriculture, within the protocol "Biodiversity Friend®" owned by the same WBA non-profit organization.





The assessment of the environmental quality of the agricultural system takes place by detecting the presence of particular organisms, called biological indicators, as they present: high sensitivity to pollutants, widespread diffusion in the territory, poor mobility and ability to accumulate polluting substances in their tissues. With regard to the soil, the specification provides for the analysis of soil samples in which the presence of soil invertebrates (annelids, springtails, mites, isopods, myriapods, insects, etc.) is detected for the determination of the Soil Biodiversity Index (IBS-bf), obtained by attributing to each group a score in relation to the role played in the dynamics of the edaphic ecosystem.





AQUATIC INVERTEBRATES: used for the evaluation of surface water quality



The assessment of air quality takes place through the Lichen Biodiversity Index (IBL-bf). Lichens, symbiotic organisms between a fungus and an alga, are very sensitive to atmospheric pollution caused by phytotoxic gases and are considered excellent biological indicators, often used in air biomonitoring, both in urban and rural areas. Lichens, in fact, are sensitive not only to urban pollution, but also to the excessive use of crop protection products in agricultural areas. The calculation of the Lichenic Biodiversity Index is based on the presence and frequency of epiphytic lichens found on the bark of trees found in the countryside. Lastly, the quality of the surface waters is assessed by analysing the composition of the aquatic invertebrate communities. The calculation of the Aquatic Biodiversity Index (IBA-bf) is based on the presence in the surface waters of aquatic macroinvertebrates with different tolerances to pollution; these are in particular plecopteran, trichopteran, ephemeroptera, molluscs, annelids, crustaceans, beetles and others. Each group is assessed with a specific score based on the sensitivity of the group to pollutants.





1

AIR QUALITY ANALYSIS

by applying the lichen biodiversity (IBL-bf)

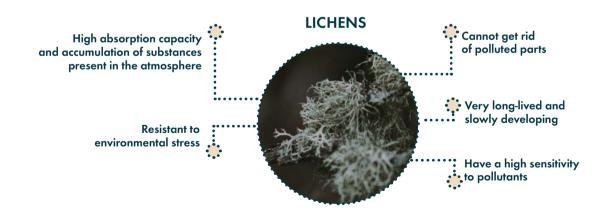
ir pollution in rural areas is an extremely complex and difficult to interpret environmental aspect.

Usually the study of air quality is addressed through the simultaneous application of different chemical-physical approaches that investigate each specific aspect of pollution, however this often involves the use of sophisticated electronic equipment. Lichens are organisms whose metabolism is strictly dependent on the air. For this reason, lichens can give excellent indications on the level of alteration of the atmosphere as they have a high absorption capacity and accumulation of substances present in it, they are very resistant to environmental stress, they cannot get rid

of polluted parts, they are very long-lived, of slow development and have a high sensitivity to pollutants.

In general, approaching the polluting sources, there is a progressive worsening of the health conditions of the lichens and, therefore, a progressive simplification of the communities until their complete disappearance (lichen desert).

The sensitivity of lichens is particularly relevant towards fungicides, however also herbicides and insecticides have a significant impact on them. In particular, wealth in lichen species has been shown to be negatively affected by the frequency of pesticide treatments.

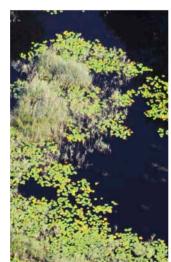








For the measurement of air quality, the Biodiversity Friend protocol is based on the identification of lichen biodiversity detection stations each consisting of groups of three nearby trees, at which the variety of species and the frequency of each are estimated, which will be translated into a summary numerical data representing the station's Lichen Biodiversity Index (IBL-bf).



In order to verify the degree of naturalness / alteration of the lichen communities, a sampling station was set up in the Ricci Curbastro farm, distributed in the area adjacent to the company headquarters, considered representative of the area investigated in general.

The results of the activity carried out made it possible to ascertain that the lichen communities of the monitored places are overall sufficient, reaching the minimum value of 45 (45.33 average IBL-bf value).

The result of the air quality through lichen analysis is obviously to be analysed contextualizing it in the urban context of the Franciacorta territory. Our company and our vineyards are located inside or at short distance from residential and industrial areas, in a context in which the use of the soil has led to the disappearance of forests and green areas.

On the contrary, it has been the commitment of Ricci Curbastro over the years that has made it possible to repopulate the urban landscape with numerous plantings of tall trees and hundreds of meters of hedges.

The measured data can therefore be interpreted as a further incentive to help improve the healthiness of our air, aware that many exogenous and uncontrollable factors "play" potentially against us.



2

ANALYSIS ON THE BIOLOGICAL QUALITY OF SOILS

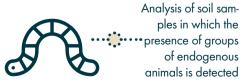
through the application of the soil biodiversity (IBS-bf)

large part of Italian agricultural soils is affected by alterations of various kinds, mainly due to erosion, compaction, pollution and a lack of organic substance. Therefore, in order to pursue sustainability, future agriculture will have to adopt a more rational management of soils. Soil quality can be assessed through physical-chemical and microbiological parameters. Other methods proposed in more recent times are based on the use of endogenous microarthropods. In fact, many endogean animals establish a dense network of relationships between them and continuously interact with the physical environment; any alteration of this environment is "registered" by the soil community which, therefore, can be used as an indicator of variations in natural conditions.

The method of the "Biodiversity Friend" standard uses the analysis of soil samples in which it is detected the presence of the main groups of endogenous animals for the determination of the "Soil Biodiversity Index" (IBS-bf); the presence of each group is reported with its score in a special form.

At the end of the sampling, the Soil Biodiversity Index is calculated by simply adding up the individual scores relating to the detected animals; the value obtained to correspond to a satisfactory soil quality must be equal to or greater than 100.

Endogean animals interact continuously with the physical



For the Ricci Curbastro estate interested in Equalitas certification, a total of 3 IBS-bf samples were performed, carried out on December 7th 2018.

On a total of 3 sites surveyed (9 sub samplings, equal to 3 IBS-bf survey cards), 100% of the findings were always at least sufficient, compared to the minimum score equal to 100 provided by the Biodiversity Friend Disciplinary for the survey of the IBS-bf Biodiversity Index. The overall average score, useful for framing the results of the IBS-bf index at the Ricci Curbastro estate is 128.33, which is therefore sufficient. The individual findings of the IBS-bf index were 135, 100 and 150, always on soil with vine culture.

In this case, the result of the analysis of soil biodiversity, although positive, was affected by the period of the year in which the sampling took place. The "Biodiversity Friend" standard in fact advises against analysis in periods of the year that are too dry or too rainy. However, with the aim of continuing to monitor corporate biodiversity, in the coming years we will repeat the analysis in more suitable periods so as to obtain an even more realistic data that allows us to trace a path of further implementation and improvement.



Calculation of the soil biodiversity index by adding the individual scores relating to the taxa detected



3

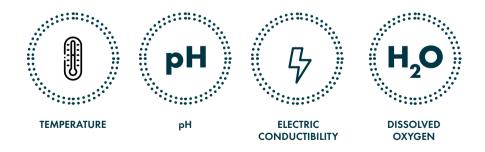
ANALYSIS ON THE BIOLOGICAL QUALITY OF SURFACE WATERS

through the application of the aquatic biodiversity index (IBA-bf)

he Aquatic Biodiversity Index of the Biodiversity Friend protocol assesses how favourable an aquatic environment as a whole is to host significant biodiversity. In the IBAF data sheet, the analysis of the fauna component is preceded by surveys on the main chemical-physical parameters of the water: temperature, pH, electrical conductivity and dissolved oxygen. The hydro-morphological analysis follows, which considers the amplitude, the river morphology, the water regime and the riparian and peripheral vegetation. Finally, the taxonomic diversity of the community and the tolerance of each group to phenomena of alteration of the water quality are considered in the survey sheet.

The area of the Ricci Curbastro farm and the neighbouring territories were previously viewed through analysis of Google Earth images and, on the day of the inspection visit, physically visited. Taking into account the sampling period, hydrography and geomorphology of the rural area, it was not possible to detect situations of permanent or semi-permanent running waters in which the IBA-bf index could be applied. It is also reported that in the Ricci Curbastro farm there is no continuous irrigation.

ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN CHEMICAL-PHYSICAL PARAMETERS OF WATER



GOOD AGRONOMIC PRACTICES

SOIL MANAGEMENT:

the consolidated business practice is that of permanent spontaneous grassing, associated with the mechanical processing of the sub-row. The floristic composition of the meadow is heterogeneous, with the presence of spontaneous monocotyledons and dicotyledons. The most rustic / resistant to mowing and the passage of mechanical means are prevalent. The mowing are managed by delaying the first spring intervention as much as possible, to allow the herbaceous essences to reach flowering and maximize biomass production.

DEFENCE MANAGEMENT:

in 2018 the company ended the conversion period to the organic method. The growing season was characterized by a particularly favourable weather course for cryptogams in the months of May and June. The repeated and abundant precipitations made it necessary to continuously restore the roofing with copper and sulphur. The 6 kg Cu / Ha / year quantity limit was respected thanks to the drastic reduction of the copper metal doses per treatment, especially in pre-flowering period.

The defence against the moth was obtained with the method of sexual confusion, which worked very well keeping the populations of *L. botrana* at very low levels.

Only one treatment, based on pyrethrum, a natural insecticide, was carried out against the buzzer carrying golden florescence, instead of the 3 requested by the Lombardy Region mandatory control decree for organic farms. This was possible on the basis of the derogation obtained thanks to the monitoring of the populations of Scaphoideus titanus carried out by the Franciacorta Consortium.





ETHICAL PILLAR That is the concrete commitment of the Gualberto Ricci Curbastro & Figli s.s. for...

HELP TO IMPROVE SOCIETY

During 2018, eight classes of elementary school (about 200 children) took part in the educational projects promoted by the Ricci Curbastro farm with the aim of educating the generations of tomorrow in a culture that respects the environment and is aware of the richness that our territory is able to offer.

DISCOVER THE VINEYARD

Is the educational initiative of the Ricci Curbastro estate

LET'S PLAY AND LEARN WITH ACINELLO

Taste and smell education workshops for schools of all levels active since 2002.

Discover the vineyard is an outdoor laboratory for schools to discover, walking, a vineyard in all its expressions. Planted in 2012, the vineyard on the outskirts of Capriolo is made with PIWI vines, an acronym that indicates varieties of wine grapes created by intraspecific hybridization resistant to fungal diseases, in German Pilzwiderstandfähig or resistant to fungi. These varieties are intended for technical experimentation in our cellar but the vineyard, absolutely free of chemical treatments, is an ideal gym to discover the vine and its fruits.

In addition, the vineyard has been planted surrounded by hedges and trees typical of the forest formations of the Franciacorta hills: twenty varieties of plants to be discovered by studying, leaves, flowers and fruits. The vineyard, the hedge, the row of mulberries and wicker constitute a micro unit of a traditional land-

"Discover the Vineyard" and
"Let's play and learn with Acinello"
are training courses that are perfectly integrated with the reality of the
Ricci Curbastro Agricultural and Wine
Museum, inaugurated in 1986, in a conservation, teaching, and development activity that make it unique in
the Franciacorta territory.

scape that has largely disappeared.









ENSURE HEALTH AND SAFETY

During 2018, the company's HACCP manual was updated again by checking the status of the Hygienic Self-Control Plan prepared in compliance with EC Reg. No. 852/2004.

The periodic checks and the control system put in place also allowed staff to fully comply with hygiene procedures in 2018, to guarantee their own and others' safety.

Also in 2018, no complaints concerned issues in some way attributable to product hygiene.

Given the entry into force of Commission Regulation (EU) 2018/213 of 12 February 2018 on the use of bisphenol A in paints and coatings intended to come into contact with food, the company has carried out an analysis of the potential contaminant in a preventive manner and by assessing the worst risk case.

A sample of wine stored for over a year in a fiberglass tank was analysed with the result of a comforting **total absence of contaminants.**

Thanks to the continuous investments in training and safety for the staff also in 2018 we kept the goal, repeated for 8 years now, of zero accidents in the company!



GUARANTEE THE WELL-BEING AND SATISFACTION OF EMPLOYEES

During the year, a guided questionnaire and a plenary discussion (in the absence of property representatives) were provided with employees who expressed a high level of satisfaction with working conditions. Among the points of greatest satisfaction are:



Developed relationships with other workers



Relationships with management



and personal growth



Job stability



The extreme flexibility quaranteed, in entry/exit or at lunchtime, in the management of operations

The company's objectives and mission are clear, well defined and passed on to workers.

Everyone also believes:

- Adequate safety applied in the workplace within the company
- That the cultural and religious practices of employees are respected by the company

- That there is an acceptable balance between work and leisure
- That the working hours are reconciled with the possibility of dedicating yourself to other activities outside the company

INVOLVE SUPPLIERS

With the aim of continuing the partnership process and raising awareness of our suppliers to common actions that reduce the environmental impact, during the year, an audit was carried out at the company supplying the workforce used for the operations of harvest.

The purpose of the audit was to verify that the supplier adopted practices in line with company objectives and provided an adequate level of guarantee with respect to the principles contained in the Equalitas standard

During the audit with the owner of the service company, no problems were detected and some noteworthy peculiarities emerged:

- Participation in a project coordinated by the trade union bodies for an ethical certification of agricultural work (certification target by the end of 2019).
- A management system through which it is possible to quickly trace back to:
- o Staff who worked day by day for Ricci Curbastro during the harvest period;
- o Work group;
- o Mount hours accrued.
- Training carried out both with regards to operator safety and with regard to good practices in the vineyard.



BUILD A RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS

100% of opportunities for discussion on sustainability and the Equalitas model during ALL the guided tours of the winery. The company reports on its commitment to sustainability.

New website www.riccicurbastro.it with greater emphasis and evidence of Equalitas certification, sustainability reports and sustainability actions implemented by the company.

Social communication focused on sustainability:



Piace a danielericcicurbastro e altri 96
riccicurbastro #Vinitaly2019 all'insegna delle novità:
Curtefranca Bianco DOC e Sebino IGT Pinot Bianco,
biologici e sostenibili → → ↓



Visualizza dati statistici Metti in evid



riccicurbastro Ricci Curbastro is officially certified Equalitas Sustainable Winery for our environmental conomical and ethical sustainability! Cheers Facebook "Ricci Curbastro Azienda Agricola"



Instagram
"Ricci Curbastro"



N° Follower: 3344 (+ 11,70%)

Average Impressions: 1542 (+ 22%)

Average Interactions: 4,5%

N° Follower: 1322 (+ 55%)

Average Impressions: **762** (+12,5%)

Average Interactions: 131 (+20%)



THE ECONOMIC DIMENSION

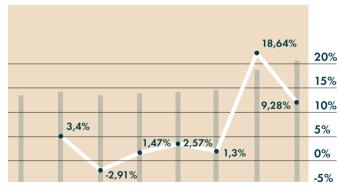
From an economic - financial point of view, 2018 showed again a positive growth trend which, also in light of the 2017 performance, was received with extreme satisfaction, in line with the development process that the Ricci Curbastro company set as a goal. In 2018 the increase in turnover relating to the sale of wine was 9.4% (+ 30% total growth in the last five years).

The growth, in line with the company strategy aimed at maintaining an enviable quality/price ratio compared to the very high intrinsic quality of the product, was supported both by growth in value and by growth in the total number of bottles sold (+3,8%) The data concerning the seasonal trend were shared during a meeting that involved all the staff. The organization has in fact undertaken to carry out, at least annually, a verbalized meeting between owners and staff on socio-economic issues.

The 2018 financial year was part of a national scenario that has not yet seen a full recovery of growth potential with a consequent flattening of consumption on the domestic market. However, corporate efforts have made it possible to overcome part of these problems with a consequent growth also on the national market (+ 7.6%).

To this must be added the strategy of differentiation of the sales markets, which began over 20 years ago and which today allows to generate about 30% of turnover on foreign markets which in 2018 grew by 13.9%.

WINE TURNOVER 2011-2018



2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018

INVESTMENTS IN FAVOR OF SUSTAINABILITY

In order to support the process of growth and continuous improvement, the company sustained during the year some economic investments in favour of social and environmental sustainability, in particular:



THE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The main objectives planned during the year have been achieved; as regards the new strategic objectives, i.e. the goals that the organization aims to achieve in order to successfully achieve its mission, the following initiatives are listed:

1

Continuation and conclusion of the European Union 2016-2018 OCM Vino multi-annual project on foreign markets, for a further improvement of the company position in South East Asia, Japan and the United States.

2

New OCM Vino plan for the period 2019-2020, with the same mentioned countries as main targets so as to be able to continue investments in presence and promotion that began in previous years.

3

Drafting of the new PNS 2019 for the purchase of 12 tonneaux for winemaking, 1 electric forklift for lifting loads over 5 meters, and latest generation office equipment.

4

Preparation of the PRRV for the financing of new vineyards for 3 hectares to be planted in 2020.



SELF EVALUATION

The goal of the self-assessment is to allow the company to measure its state of the art with respect to the parameters and criteria contained in the SOPD Equalitas standard "Sustainability of the wine supply chain: organizations, products, denominations".

The aim is to be a functional photograph for the correct positioning of the company with respect to the framework for satisfying the requirements established by the standard, in order to ensure that the company undertakes a virtuous process with respect to three distinct sustainability profiles: economic, environmental and social.

The standard provides only result obligations, leaving the company free to define the specific methodologies necessary for achieving these results.

DEFINITION OF PRODUCTS FOR CERTIFICATION:

The company applies its Management System to the following stages:

VINEYARD MANAGEMENT GRAPE HARVESTING AND DELIVERY

WINEMAKING

WINE PROCESSING

BOTTLING

FINISHED PRODUCT STORAGE

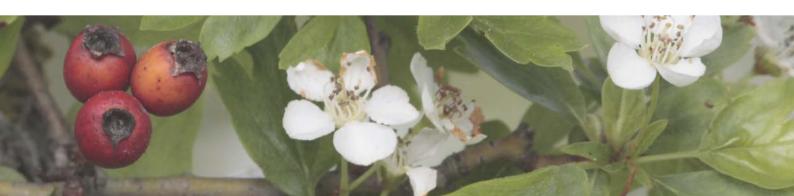
The company produces wines starting exclusively from its own raw material, deriving from its own vineyards or "controlled" vineyards. The entire range of wines produced is certified as "sustainable", with the exception of those that may be affected by small purchases of raw materials of external origin; in the case of VSQ or better without Designation of Origin.

RESULTS OF THE VERIFICATION OF JULY 1ST 2019

Qualified external auditors have certified that in general the company can be said to be oriented towards principles of improvement and quality, providing an adequate level of guarantee with respect to the principles contained in the standard "Sustainability of the wine supply chain: organizations, products, denominations (Sopd)". The main strengths demonstrated are identifiable in the organizational system which, although recently formalized, is in fact well managed and widespread at all levels, in the ability to enhance the key procedures, in maintaining adequate structural and hygienic conditions, also supported by a good propensity to invest.

The auditors also underlined that the operating conditions and the criteria that underlie the choices of the oenological operations appear clearly established on the basis of typical objective elements of a "sustainable approach", such as the definition of an oenological objective, the awareness and preparation of the staff, the sufficient collection of objective data (analytical, sensory etc.) before making the choices.

Neither internal audits nor third party verifications have highlighted particular critical areas.



THE IMPROVEMENT GOALS

Some improvement objectives for the three-year period are set out below:

1

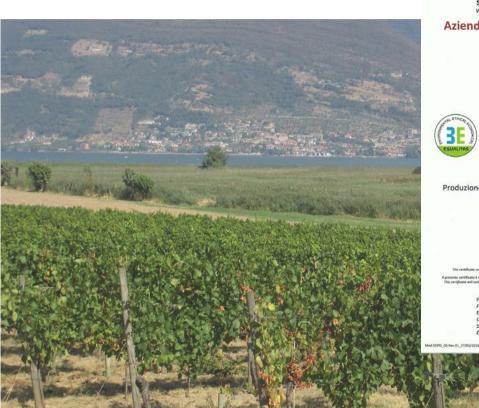
The increase in corporate biodiversity, through targeted management actions

2

Implementation of the company water footprint assessment and calculation system



EQUALITAS CERTIFICATION





Certificato n. 42335 Certificate n.

Si certifica che il sistema di gestione della sostenibilità di We hereby certify that the sustainability management system operated by

Azienda Agricola G. Ricci Curbastro e Figli S.s.

Via Adro, 37 - 25031 Capriolo (BS)

Tipologia di azienda: F - Coltivazione, Trasformazione, Imbottigliamento

Unità operative / Operative units

Via Adro, 37 - 25031 Capriolo (BS)

È conforme allo standard Is in compliance with the standard



EQUALITAS - Standard SOPD "Modulo Organizzazione Sostenibile - OS" Rev. 02 del 28/01/2019

> Per le seguenti attività For the following activities

Produzione, affinamento e confezionamento di vini fermi e frizzanti in bottiglie di vetro. Esclusioni: nessuna.

> Indicatori ambientali valutati: Biodiversità

certificate will satisfy the resumments established by CSQA. The validity of this Certificate depends on periodic surveillance and renewal every

Prima emissione: Eiret leeun Emissione corrente: Current issue Expiry date

13/04/2018 24/09/2019

12/04/2021

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L'Amministratore Delegato The Chief Executive Officer Dr. Pietro Bollato

CSQA Certificazioni Srl Via S. Gaetano, 74 - 36016 Thiene (VI)

