



**RICCI CURBASTRO**  
*Franciacorta*

# Sustainability Report

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# 2021

Vanessa atalanta butterfly



Hawthorn hedge in bloom



# INDEX

|  |    |  |    |
|--|----|--|----|
| Mission  | 5  |  |    |
| Introduction to the report                             | 7  |  |    |
| <b>ENVIRONMENTAL PILLAR</b>                            |    |  |    |
| Water Footprint  | 11 |  |    |
| Biodiversity   | 14 |  |    |
| Carbon Footprint                                       | 17 |  |    |
| - Calculation  | 18 |  |    |
| - Electric Energy                                      | 20 |  |    |
| Good Agronomic Practices                               | 22 |  |    |
| <b>ETHICAL PILLAR</b>                                  | 27 |  |    |
| Landscape ethical reflections                          | 28 |  |    |
| Help to improve society                                | 30 |  |    |
| Ensure health and safety                               | 32 |  |    |
| Guarantee the well-being and satisfaction of employees | 33 |  |    |
| The Great Resignation                                  | 34 |  |    |
| Involve Neighbours                                     | 35 |  |    |
| Involve Suppliers                                      | 37 |  |    |
| - Glass  | 38 |  |    |
| - Corks  | 40 |  |    |
| Build a Responsible business                           | 42 |  |    |
|  |    | <b>ECONOMICAL PILLAR</b>                         | 43 |
|  |    | The economic dimensions                          | 44 |
|  |    | Investments in favour of sustainability          | 48 |
|  |    | Ricci Curbastro in the Future Respect Index 2021 | 49 |
|  |    | The Strategic Objectives                         | 51 |
|  |    | <b>SELF EVALUATION</b>                           | 52 |
|  |    | <b>THE IMPROVEMENT GOALS</b>                     | 53 |
|  |    | <b>EQUALITAS CERTIFICATION</b>                   | 54 |





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.**

# MISSION

**E**ighteen generations of Ricci Curbastro have led, starting with Pietro, born in 1380, farms in Romagna and Lombardy. These centuries-old traditions are now represented by the Rontana estate in Brisighella (RA) and the Ricci Curbastro estate in Franciacorta.

The latter produced bottled wines as early as the 1800s, as evidenced by labels from 1885 still preserved today. It was transformed by Gualberto Ricci Curbastro into a modern wine company since 1967, when the D.O.C. Franciacorta, of which he was one of the eleven founders, was created.

**Of the 32 hectares of company surface, 29,5 are invested in vineyards.**

The company practices organic farming as a natural continuation of the various environmental impact reduction practices that began in 1980, forty 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,



Vineyard, museum and cellar

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 talk 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. **Since 2021 the Museum has been part of the Museimpresa Association.**







Flowering Cherry Trees in the vineyard



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**
- **satisfying employees and customers**
- **respecting the environment**
- **enhancing the company's products**

the management has decided to commit itself also for 2021 in order to further implement the improvement actions envisaged by the Equalitas standard.

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#### THE SUSTAINABILITY TEAM:

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| <i>Riccardo</i>  | <i>Nicola L.</i> |
| <i>Gualberto</i> | <i>Beatrice</i>  |
| <i>Filippo</i>   | <i>Luciano</i>   |
| <i>Annalisa</i>  | <i>Lisa</i>      |
| <i>Evelina</i>   | <i>Marco</i>     |
| <i>Nicola V.</i> | <i>Giuseppe</i>  |
| <i>Roberta</i>   |                  |





Nest of Blackbird *Turdus merula* in the cellar

# INTRODUCTION TO THE REPORT

A **recent research<sup>1</sup>** carried out **by the University of Geisenheim on 1,579 wineries in 42 countries around the world highlights how Sustainability is Important for 34%** of the companies interviewed **and Very Important for 59%** of them, and **87% of wineries claim that sustainable practices will become even more significant over the next 5 years.**

Considering that this is **our 5th certified Sustainability Report**, the first was in 2017, and that an increase in interest is expected worldwide over the next 5 years, we can say with some pride that once again we have behaved like foresighted winemakers.

The winemaker is in fact the one who thinks, imagines, anticipates a wine, plants a vineyard, awaits the production of grapes for four years, then vinifies them, awaits the maturation of the wine and finally, after about ten years, arrives on the market waiting for the customers verdict. Ten years of anxious waiting, ten years looking to the future with roots firmly anchored to their traditions and to the past.

**2021** was the year in which our Next Generation Plan saw its fulfillment **with the entry of Filippo Ricci Curbastro into the company full time.** Degree in oenology in Milan, master in viticulture and oenology in Bordeaux, oenological experiences

in the two hemispheres, Filippo completes the eighteenth generation team alongside his brother Gualberto.

Our Agricultural and Wine Museum, opened to the public in 1986, had suffered in recent years the loss of its founder Gualberto (1932-2013), always remaining the same and therefore running the risk of aging. **In 2021, with the help of Prof. Massimo Negri**, one of the leading international experts in corporate museology, we began **a project to integrate and improve the existing exhibition and then aim for an expansion of the museum itself planned for 2023**. Of these developments will also be carried out the arrangement and cataloguing of the Ricci Curbastro Archive, thousands of documents starting from 1600 and photographs starting from 1880.

If it is true that we have long ago entered the so-called “reputational economy”, it should also be emphasized that this reputation must be built with facts and not with abstract suggestions that for so many years characterized the communication of wine for too many companies. This means, in our opinion, that we have entered the era of the demonstration of facts, where concreteness prevails over suggestions, where actions are worth much more than promises.



We are realizing it concretely by observing the numerous fronts in which Italian wine companies are involved, starting with a theme such as that of sustainability which seems to have reached its “first” terminus. In fact, it is possible to declare the “regulatory sustainability” in which practically no one believes anymore, starting with consumers who have realized that nothing concrete and, above all, understandable was born from the great number of “legislative” declarations.

<sup>1</sup>Szolnoki, G., Ridoff, N., Nilsson, C., Tafel, M. and Stelter, A.-C. (2022), Sustainable Wine Tourism – A Global Survey. Geisenheim University and WineTourism.com. Online available: <https://www.winetourism.com/sustainable-wine-tourism/>



Capparis spinosa caper

# ENVIRONMENTAL PILLAR

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

The data reported in this report refer to previous years. As foreseen by the Equalitas standard, the calculation of the water footprint, carbon footprint and biodiversity indicators can take place only once during the three-year certification period.





Ricci Curbastro farm Vigna Cascina Bosco





# WATER FOOTPRINT

**The water footprint** is an **indicator of the amount of fresh water used to produce goods or services**. It can relate to a single production process, a specific product, or even the total amount of water resources used in a company during all stages

of production. The water footprint is the sustainability indicator that allows you to evaluate the total amount of water consumed or polluted. The data calculated and reported here refer to the 2019/2020 agricultural year.



Forced draught



**All of the company water consumption in the wine sector was considered.** The company draws water only from the aqueduct. In the absence of more precise data, the quantity of water consumed for the vinification and bottling phases is divided in relation to the quantity of wine bottled. As for the water consumed for the management of the vineyards, the company meter is shared

with the Agriturismo, in this case the indication of the company was followed for the percentage breakdown between vineyard and farmhouse. **The quantitative estimates of company emissions by functional unit are shown below, broken down by area and with details of the production activities calculated for the year 2020.**

|                            |                  | VINEYARD                    | CELLAR               | BOTTLING                |
|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Impact Category            | Measurement Unit | (Total/1 quintal of grapes) | (Total/1 liter wine) | (Total/1 0.75 L bottle) |
| Water use                  | m <sup>3</sup>   | 5.49E+01                    | 1.39E+00             | 1.78E+00                |
| Aquatic acidification      | kg So2 eq        | 3.73E-01                    | 7.55E-03             | 1.30E-02                |
| Freshwater eutrophication  | kg P eq          | 1.61E-02                    | 3.35E-04             | 1.00E-03                |
| Freshwater Ecotoxicity     | CTUh             | 1.81E+06                    | 1.29E-07             | 3.16E-07                |
| Human toxicity, cancer     | CTUh             | 6.26E-06                    | 1.48E-06             | 1.30E-06                |
| Human toxicity, non cancer | CTUe             | 7.91E-05                    | 3.61E+04             | 4.61E+04                |

From the above assessment it emerges that **the most significant impacts are substantially due**, for the vineyards phase to fuels and plant protection products, **for the cellar phase to the consumption of electricity and for the bottling phase to the use of glass for bottling.**

This study provides an overall view of the contributions of the sup-

ply chain to the company's "water footprint". Although the absolute values do not represent a useful evaluation tool to date, which is better represented by the percentage contributions, they nevertheless constitute a reference point on which to base evaluations in future years. As this is the first year of study, it will be considered as the reference year.

Lavender and vineyard



# BIODIVERSITY

In the month of June 2020 WBA Project Srl, a company controlled by the World Biodiversity Association non-profit organization, carried out a second biodiversity analysis at the Ricci Curbastro estate.

The audit of the biological quality of soil, water and air of wine-growing sites in Capriolo (BS), through the application of the Biodiversity Indices of the "Biodiversity Friend® Protocol" follows the first verification carried out in December 2018.

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 Biodi-

versity Index (IBS-bf), obtained by attributing to each group a score in relation to the role played in the dynamics of the edaphic ecosystem.

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 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.

The results of the activity carried out made it possible to ascertain that the lichen communities of the monitored places are overall





**AQUATIC  
INVERTEBRATES:**  
used for the evaluation  
of surface water  
quality



**LICHENS:**  
used for  
the evaluation  
of air quality



**ENDOGEAN  
ANIMALS:**  
interact continuously  
with the physical  
environment



**BIOLOGICAL  
INDICATORS:**  
used to assess  
the environmental  
quality of  
the agricultural  
system



discrete, reaching the minimum value of 59 (59.67 average IBL-bf value). 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.

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.

Flowering apple trees



# CARBON FOOTPRINT

Our **passion for agriculture and the environment** in which we produce our Franciacorta and the **responsibility we feel towards the next generations** require that one of the most urgent environmental issues of our time is tackled in a concrete way: **climate change**.

The most effective tool recognized by the scientific community for calculating greenhouse gas emissions on a voluntary basis is the **Carbon Footprint**: a useful tool to make our environmental commitment even more evident and further improve our actions in this sense.

This sustainability report summarizes the most significant data relating to the calculation of the carbon footprint carried out in 2020.

Apple trees in bloom and vineyard





# CALCULATION

The Functional Units produced by each company area in 2019 are shown below:



## VINEYARD

152,273 ton of grapes on 24,5300 hectares.  
In addition, 28.27 tons of grapes are purchased.



## CELLAR

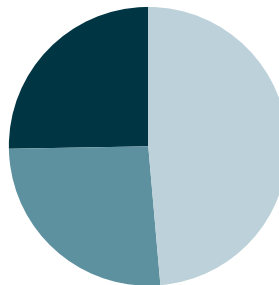
99,001 liters of total wine  
produced.



## BOTTLING

123,820 bottles sold  
(U.F. 0.75L)

## ANALYSIS OF COMPANY EMISSIONS

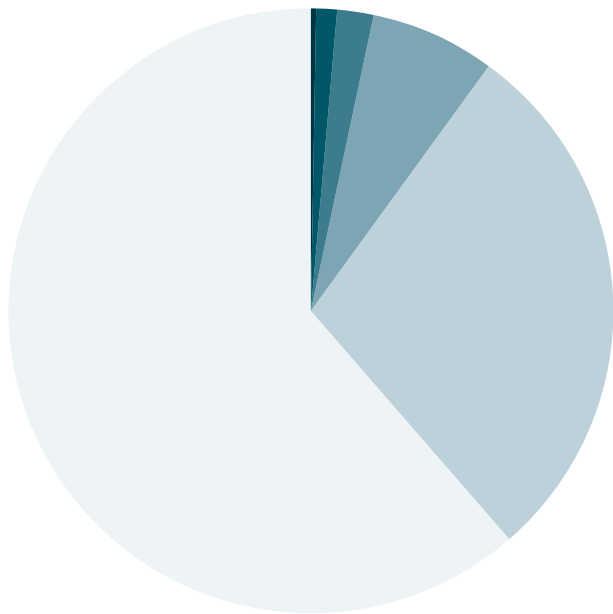


### % EMISSIONS BY AREA

Below is the percentage breakdown  
of total emissions by area considered:

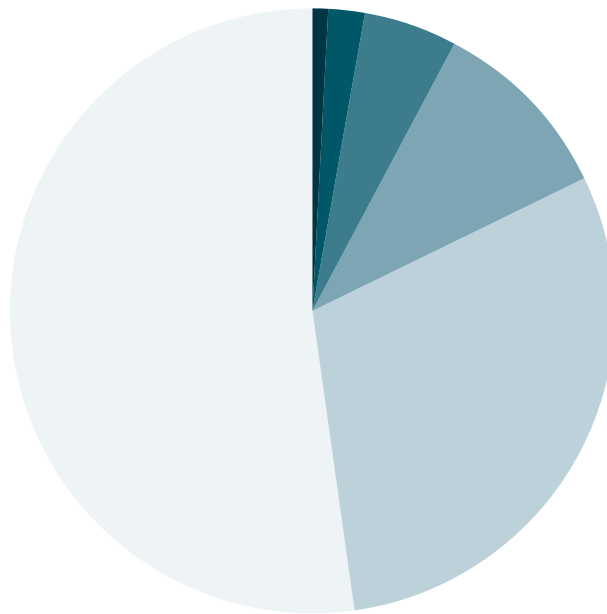
- Countryside 48.63%
- Cellar 26.18%
- Commercial 25.19%





## COUNTRYSIDE

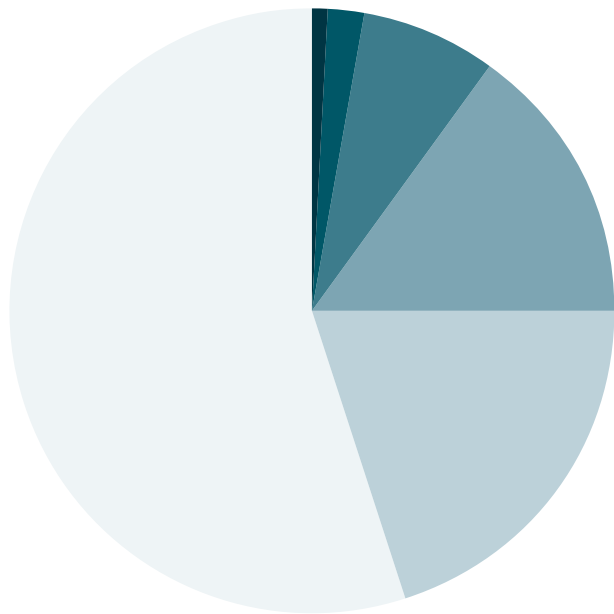
- Land use and change of land use 62.35%
- Vehicle fuels 28.57%
- Fertilizers 6.81%
- Phytochemicals 1.88%
- Transport and waste treatment 0.32%
- Inbound transport (Vineyard) 0.06%



## CELLAR

- Grapes, musts, bulk wines 58.74%
- Electricity 26.99%
- Fuels (Boilers, heating) 9.07%
- Oenological products 4.53%
- Refrigerant gases and fluids 0.88%
- Inbound transport (Cellar) 0.09%





## COMMERCIAL

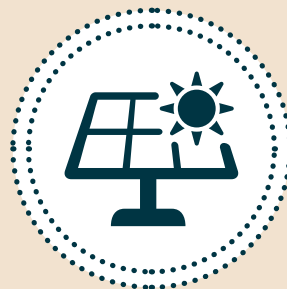
- Glass 60.59%
- Packaging (Closures, Packaging ...) -18.36%
- Fuels (Boilers, heating) 13.97%
- Electricity 6.61%
- Inbound transport (Commercial) 0.45%
- Waste transport and treatment 0.03%

## ELECTRIC ENERGY

Since 2008, the winery has been producing electricity thanks to solar panels installed on the roofs with the goal achieved and maintained of making the Ricci Curbastro estate independent from an energy point of view.



**PURCHASED**  
39.204 KWH



**PHOTOVOLTAIC**  
49.278 KWH





Broom and vineyard in spring



# GOOD AGRONOMIC PRACTICES



Grapevine sprout in Franciacorta

## PLANT MANAGEMENT

All the company's vineyards are **pruned with renewed branches**, with an average load of 10-12 buds per vine. In the spring of 2021, at the beginning of April, we had several nights with minimum temperatures very close to zero. The fertility of the buds has been influenced, in the sense that many flowers have unfortunately evolved into tendrils. Even the size of the inflorescences remained below average (very few winged clusters). Therefore, it was not necessary to remove the double buds and, least of all, to thin out the clusters.

Two hail events occurred in the area of Capriolo: the first, mild, on July 16th and the second, decidedly more important, on July 24th. The damage to production was quantitative and, above all, qualitative because the second hailstorm arrived at the very beginning of veraison. The management of the greenery was carried out with the ordinary operations of combing the shoots (in 2 steps) and with 3 topping. The peaks of temperature and insolation of the month of July have advised against proceeding with the peeling.



Brolo of Passoni vineyard in autumn

## SOIL MANAGEMENT

The estate continued with the approach described in the previous Documents. The technique adopted is permanent spontaneous grassing, which is carried out starting from the third year of age of the vineyards. The opportunity to reintroduce surface work in alternate rows is being considered, to break up the turf in the summer months and eliminate competition for water resources, optimizing the effects of sprinkler irrigation. The decision will obviously be made according to the pluviometric trend.

## DEFENCE MANAGEMENT

The company has followed the **organic protocol in vineyard management since 2016**. In 2021, as now happens every year, we had a couple of weeks with particular trepidation for the anti-fungal defence. The usual 15 days in which the sprayers cannot be detached and there is neither Saturday nor Sunday. Rains, dews, repeated washouts of the distributed products, very long periods of leaf wetness, all a set of causes that forced some winegrowers to take extreme measures (even to spray under the rain). At the end of the “war” we were able to see that the well-defended vineyards have fared very well and that with the downy mildew, once again, it is not only the quantities of copper that make the difference, but also, and above all, the quality and frequency of distributions. It is now well established that it is much better to treat often, with limited doses of copper, applied with high-performance machines and correct volumes of water, rather than dilating the shifts and increasing the dosages. The resistance inductors tested in previous years have been abandoned: the results, evaluated in terms of a possible reduction in the use of copper, were unsatisfactory. Even in 2021 the non-exceeding of the threshold of 4 kg of Cu per hectare was still guaranteed. As experiences grow, the awareness grows more and more that at certain times of the year, with the right machines and the right calibrations, we can go below 200 grams of Cu per hectare, reserving ourselves for the “usual 15 days” the higher dosages. The Ricci Curbastro Company continued its defense with the natural



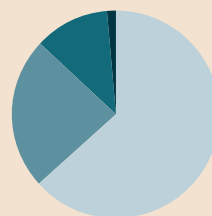
method of sexual confusion against the moth. No changes are expected in the next few years.

The usual monitoring action of the *Scafoideus titanus* populations carried out by the Franciacorta Consortium showed that the tolerance threshold was exceeded in an area near the company headquarters in 2021. Here, on the recommendation of the Consortium, an additional post-harvest treatment was carried out against the leafhopper carrier of *flavescence dorée*. The remainder of the company's vineyard area remained, according to the results of the catches, in derogation from the regional provisions (Obligatory Struggle Decree) and was therefore treated only once. The checks carried out by company staff do not yet indicate significant variations in the incidence of *flavescence* and black wood.



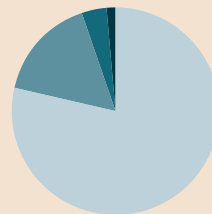
Grape leaves in the backlight

**In order to ensure the diversity and richness of the vineyards destined for the production of Franciacorta, the company has areas under vines that are well divided between the three main varieties of the Denomination.** However, highlighting significantly higher data in the incidence of the cultivation of Pinot Blanc and Pinot Noir than the average in Franciacorta. Among the cultivated varieties there is also the Erbatat, recently introduced in the production regulations, it represents for Ricci Curbastro a new research project and a new challenge for the next few years.



#### RICCI CURBASTRO'S VINEYARDS 2021

- 54,67% Chardonnay
- 26,51% Pinot Nero
- 17,76% Pinot Bianco
- 1,06% Erbatat



#### FRANCIACORTA'S VINEYARDS 2021

- 80,0% Chardonnay
- 16,7% Pinot Nero
- 3% Pinot Bianco
- 0,3% Erbatat

**Furthermore, our investments in new vineyards in recent years have been characterized by the search for ever greater diversity of soils and therefore of wines to better characterize the aromatic and tasting profiles of our Franciacorta.**

Ricci Curbastro is characterized by having a company body of about 20 hectares in a single block which guarantees better environmental performance for lower transport, costs for moving machinery and personnel, however this advantageous situation for sustainability could have been a limit for a certain soil uniformity.

With the study of viticultural zoning of Franciacorta begun in 1992 it was possible to divide the Franciacorta territory into different areas, which differ from each other for the characteristics of the soils and consequently for the influence they have on the vegetative-productive aspects of the vine, the qualitative characteristics of grapes and musts and the sensory profiles of the resulting wines. In particular, six areas have been identified, called Vocational Units, each of which group land with homogeneous characteristics:

- Fine deposits
- Fluvioglacial
- Distal colluvia
- Deep moraine
- Terraced colluvia
- Fine moraine



Eurasian hoopoe

**Ricci Curbastro, despite being a small-medium sized company in Franciacorta, extends over 31.5 hectares of vineyards, and can now boast vineyards planted on 4 of the 6 Franciacorta vocational units.**

The breakdown is shown in the following graph and certainly shows a predominance as regards the fluvioglacial vocational unit (84% of the vineyards), which includes our land of Capriolo located near the Oglio river, in the Bosco Alto and Bosco Baso localities, which constitute the main nucleus of our vineyards and consequently represent the backbone of our Franciacorta, marking our style in a distinctive way. They are moderately deep, loamy-sandy soils, limited by gravelly-sandy substrates that guar-

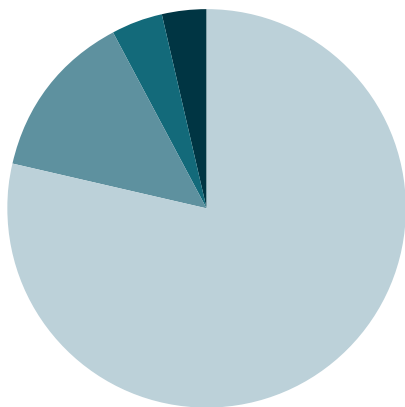
antee good productivity and medium-late ripening and wines of medium complexity.

About 4 hectares of vineyards, corresponding to 14.5% of our vineyards, are located on the vocational unit defined as fine moraine. These are vineyards located in the municipalities of Iseo and Clusane, close to the shores of Lake Iseo, which are characterized by shallow soils, limited by a sandy-loamy substrate, which result in a lower vegetative and productive potential, with fewer numbers and weight of the bunches, and in an earlier ripening also characterized by higher sugar levels and pH; consequently, the result is base wines of great complexity.

4.5% of our vineyards are instead located in the municipality

of Capriolo in the Colzano locality, which is located in the vocational unit defined as fine deposits, which is characterized by predominantly deep loamy-clayey soils, with no skeleton and therefore with less drainage; all this results in a potentially higher productivity, with late ripening, low sugar levels and high acidity, and base wines that stand out for their floral notes and persistence.

Finally, a small area, about 1 ha, is located near the winery, in Capriolo, in an area included in the vocational unit called distal colluvi, which has deep soils, with little skeleton and loose texture; the productivity here is higher with low pH values and floral wines of medium complexity.



### % Estate Hectares per Vocation Unit

84,31% Fluvioglacial

14,55% Fine moraine

4,58% Fine deposits

3,67% Distal Colluvia



Sebastiano Barbieri  
and Roberto Griffl Wine&Writer

# ETHICAL PILLAR

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



# LANDSCAPE ETHICAL REFLECTIONS

**John Ruskin's conception of the landscape** (London, February 8, 1819 - Brantwood, January 20, 1900) influenced environmental movements for two centuries and is still unsurpassed today. For the British writer, **what surrounds us is the key place of responsibility: social and political issues must be measured against the values of nature, beauty and memory.** In the great theatre of nature, the owner of the landscape and its values is the community to which the landscape imparts a strong moral lesson. For this reason, it must be known,

described, protected while preserving its original appearance. For Ruskin the "landscape is the beloved face of the homeland". Also Benedetto Croce in 1920 was inspired by Ruskin in drafting what would be the first Italian law for the protection of the landscape. However, this has not prevented the devastation of Italian landscapes, industrialization and urbanization that nullifies the balance between the city and the countryside, a lack of culture and memory that today more than ever requires careful restoration.



Paolo Pejrone, one of the greatest landscape architects of our time, a pupil of British landscape architect Russel Page, recently stated: "Greta Thumberg is right when she says it's all a blah, blah, blah, everyone is talking, sustainability has become a very boring refrain and very little heard. We must act seriously, with more intelligence and opportunities, but it is up to us to do it, each in their own little" (WineNews November 8, 2021)

Ricci Curbastro has for some decades been engaged in this work of recovery and enhancement thanks to a common thread that requires each new investment initiative to carefully “insert” it into the cultural substrate of the existing landscape:



In 1995, the extension of the cellar was built using the original drawings of the architect Antonio Tagliaferri (Brescia, 9 February 1835 - Brescia, 20 May 1909) who in 1860 had built the farm buildings of the company now home to our Agricultural and Wine Museum.



In 2006 the restoration of the farmhouse located in front of the company to create farmhouse apartments overlooking a vineyard was carried out with the same principle, thus creating a unique landscape today composed of 5 buildings all having the same architectural characteristics and placed astride the provincial road.



With the aforementioned restoration of the farmhouse, the recovery of the old hedges still existing in the company and the constant and continuous planting of new ones began, as well as the recovery of the mulberry rows still present. Both are elements of a traditional landscape, that of Franciacorta, now largely disappeared due to agricultural mechanization and the disappearance of the silk culture. In 2020, this ongoing commitment has allowed us to reach 1000 meters of company's managed hedges.



In 2012, the planting of a vineyard between the houses of Capriolo was an opportunity to create a micro landscape surrounded by hedges and trees typical of the forest formations of the Franciacorta hills: about twenty varieties of plants to be discovered by studying, leaves, flowers and fruits.  
[www.scopriilvigneto.it](http://www.scopriilvigneto.it)

All this will obviously not change the general deterioration of the agricultural and urban landscape in which we operate, but we remain convinced that small actions, in their sum, can lead to results greater than the value of the sums themselves, creating virtuous examples of emulation.





# HELP TO IMPROVE SOCIETY



In 2021, with the full resumption of school and educational activities, it was possible to return to welcoming students as part of the educational projects promoted by the Ricci Curbastro Farm.

In particular, during the year the following were accepted:

- 2 classes, 40 children attending the primary school in the municipality of Capriolo
- 3 classes, 90 students attending hotel and agricultural technical institutes
- 2 classes, 60 students attending SDA Bocconi Masters



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 the educational initiative of the Ricci Curbastro estate together with **"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 Pilzwiderstandsfähig 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 landscape that has largely disappeared.

**“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.**



Acinello Festival of Franciacorta 2013

# ENSURE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Thanks to the continuous  
**investments** in training and safety  
for the staff **also in 2021** we kept  
the goal, repeated for 11 years  
now, of

**0** 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



Professional and personal growth



Job stability



The extreme flexibility guaranteed, 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

**Equal opportunity between Ricci Curbastro' employers**

30% 18-30 years • 40% 30-50 years • 30% > 50 years



50%  
MALE

50%  
FEMALE



**Contracts**

90% 10%

PERMANENT CONTRACT FIXED-TERM CONTRACT

# THE GREAT RESIGNATION



A recent study published by McKinsey reveals that 40% of workers around the world are willing to change jobs in the coming months. The phenomenon known as **The Great Resignation** concerns an **increasing and anomalous number of people who abandon their employment** and would be related to the pandemic crisis that has placed people in front of new anxieties by imposing a rethinking on their own life and its priority.

This phenomenon, aggravated in Italy by the deep gap existing between required skills and available skills, **sees a growing demand for flexibility between work and leisure time**, the demand for motivating challenges for growth, the search for effective proxies, in other words **it is felt the need to change the way you work**.

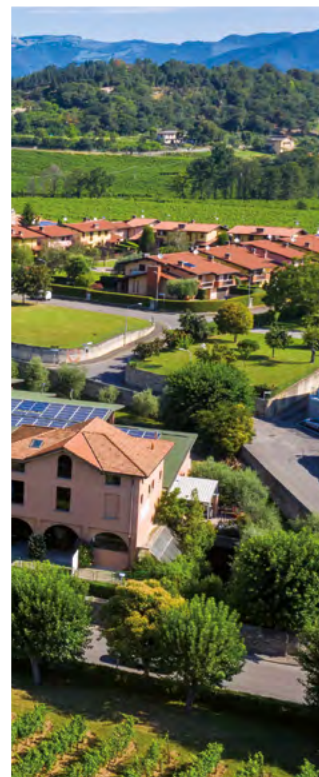
In this context, **corporate sustainability policies are fundamental to increase the sense of value adherence of company collaborators**.

Transparent sharing of company information and motivation become engines of development because growing and motivating employees costs effort and financial resources but their loss costs much more, which is why we aim to have collaborators “on board” ready to row in the same direction as us.

# INVOLVE NEIGHBOURS

During 2019, 10 letters signed by the owner were given to neighbours illustrating the company's work and questionnaires to assess the degree of acceptance by the community of the company's efforts to reduce the environmental impact but also of the relationship established with the local community.

In the course of 2022, 30 letters signed by the owner were sent to neighbours with an illustration of the activities carried out during the three-year period of Equalitas certification and a paper and / or digital evaluation questionnaire. Five responses to the questionnaire were received which expressed their full satisfaction with the company activities and the involvement shown in the community.





Millie & Simon get engaged in the vineyard August 2016



# 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, **a new audit** was carried out at the company supplying the manpower used in the estate for the harvest operations.

The purpose of the audit was to verify that the supplier adopted practices in line with company objectives, provided an adequate level of guarantee with respect to the principles contained in the Equalitas standard and it was possible to evaluate any improvement path undertaken by the supplier.

During the audit with the owner of the service company no findings were imposed and some noteworthy peculiarities emerged:

- **A management system through which it is possible to trace in a short time:**
  - Personnel who worked day by day for Ricci Curbastro during the harvest period;
  - Work group to which they belong;
  - Total hours accrued.
- **Training carried out both with regard to the safety of operators and with regard to good practices in the vineyard;**
- **The remuneration imposed is consistent with the level and takes into account any overtime;**
- **Staff are accommodated in hotels and transported to and from the workplace by bus.**





## Glass

We are committed in choosing suppliers who are careful to environmental and sustainability issues. For the glass of our bottles, we only use Verallia bottles certified in accordance with EC legislation in compliance with the maximum quantities of heavy metals present in the glass.

### EC DIRECTIVE 94/62 ALLOWS THE PRESENCE UP TO:

120 PPM of Lead (Pb)

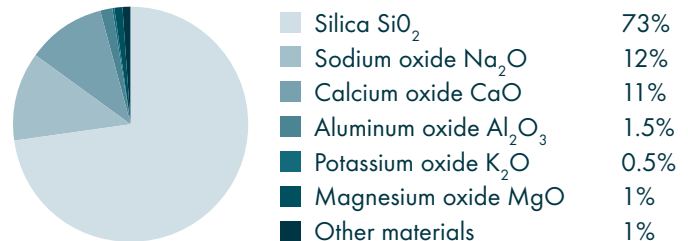
< 2 PPM of Cadmium (Cd)

### THE ANALYSES ON THE SAMPLES OF BOTTLES PURCHASED BY US REVEAL THE PRESENCE OF:

< 0.01 PPM of Lead (Pb)

< 0.05 PPM of Cadmium (Cd)

### GLASS COMPOSITION





**The glass of the bottles in question is 100% recyclable for an infinite number of times;** it can be used in any condition of contact with food.

Guarantees absolute impermeability to gas ( $0.0 \text{ cm}^3 / \text{m}^2 / 24\text{h} / 23^\circ \text{C}$ ), vapours ( $0.0 \text{ g} / \text{m}^2 / 24\text{h} / 38^\circ \text{C}$ ), humidity, microorganisms.

It is composed of silica, sodium and calcium oxides, coming from silica sand, soda and calcium carbonate with the addition of recycled glass cullet in variable % depending on the availability of cullet on the market.

**For the bottles we use, the range of use of recycled glass is: 75-85%**

Furthermore, through the subsidiary Ecoglass, Verallia deals with the recovery and recycling of glass. Collected and transformed, cullet becomes quality raw material, ready to be used again in factories for new glass containers.

In this way, Verallia has chosen to manage the recycling operation entirely internally, in order to have an excellent quality level of the scrap to be used in the furnaces and to minimize processing waste in the scrap treatment process.



# CORKS

Even in the choice of Ricci corks, Curbastro has operated by seeking sustainability, in fact we only use corks that come from natural materials and are perfectly recyclable.



Franciacorta cork stopper

## CORKS

The forests of cork oaks (*Quercus suber*) grow in arid and semi-arid areas of the Mediterranean basin, protect from erosion and fires, promote a unique biodiversity in the world, employ thousands of people who would have very few other income possibilities in those areas.

- The cork molecule has the formula  $C_{123}H_{182}O_{56}N$  which was discovered by the Italian chemist Luigi Valentino Brugnatelli.
- A cork contains 800 million cells; therefore, a large amount of  $CO_2$  is taken from the plant in the environment and sequestered in the cork itself.
- A cork oak plant is peeled to obtain corks only after the first 40 years of life, this contributes to the maintenance of vast forests.
- The cortex represents a form of response to arid environments with frequent passage of fire the integumental tissue, devoid of intercellular spaces, formed by dead cells, whose wall is thickened and suberified and the cellular lumen filled with air, isolates and protects the underlying tissues from heat exchanges and from the exchange of liquid or gaseous chemicals.
- The removal of the cork is a periodic operation that is carried out in at least ten-year cycles, it is carried out manually with traditional methods, using special hatchets. The operation takes place from May to July and requires skill and experience as the cut must reach the phellogen without affecting the innermost layers of the cortex (phelloderm and book).

- Cork stoppers are completely recyclable not to make new corks but to build cladding and thermal and acoustic insulation panels, memo boards, tennis and cricket balls, car and airplane components, design pieces ... if thrown in the trash they are biodegradable and do not pollute, put them in the organic fraction.

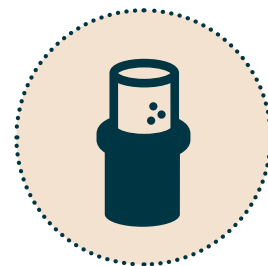


Franciacorta crown cap

## **NORMACORC® POLYMER CAPS**

the patented formulation of the Nomacorc Green Line is based on plant polymers extracted from sugar cane, a 100% renewable source of raw materials. In this way, the absorption of CO<sub>2</sub> present in the atmosphere is favored and carbon emissions are reduced.

- Normacorc manufacturer Vinventions calculates the carbon footprint of its closures following the rules and standards to calculate the carbon footprint (such as ISO / TS 14044 and 14067), only the sequestration of the amount of carbon present in the closure is accounted for. Neither forest nor the sequestration of all sugar cane plantations are included in the calculation, as the rules and standards do not allow it to be included in the calculation of the carbon footprint of the wine closure. The caps of the Nomacorc Green Line series are certified Zero CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions.
- Nomacorc caps can be recycled together with all other plastics in the normal recycling chains already present in most of the world.
- They have innovative features that improve aesthetics and tactile sensoriality and give a natural appearance. The extraction takes place in a clean and uniform way, without crumbs or breaks.





# 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. Website [www.riccicurbastro.it](http://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:



N° Follower:  
**4043 (+5,58%)**

Average Impressions:  
**1444**

Average Interactions  
**82**



N° Follower:  
**3192 (+33,55%)**

Average Impressions:  
**2043**

Average Interactions:  
**184**



A high-angle photograph of a business meeting. Two people's hands are visible, pointing at various financial charts and documents spread across a wooden table. The charts include bar graphs, line graphs, and pie charts. A laptop is partially visible in the top left corner, and a calculator is in the bottom right. The overall tone is professional and analytical.

# ECONOMICAL PILLAR

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

# THE ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS

From an economic-financial point of view, **2021 marked a record in the company's sales performance.** Despite a first quarter, still partially affected by the limitations related to the COVID emergency, the following quarters have recorded numbers that are consistently above historical averages. Also, thanks to the gradual reopening and fewer restrictions on the market, the results at the end of the year **show a growth in value of + 50.09% (+ 36.76% vs 2019) and a growth in volumes of + 43.57% (+ 23.96% vs 2019).**

The excellent growth results were mainly driven by the performance of the domestic market which saw volume growth of + 53.19%. **Exports, on the other hand, grew by + 18.76%, representing about 23% of the company's turnover in 2021.** The sudden and unpredictable growth in sales has put a strain on the management of winery operations, however the company organization has made it possible to manage order management without having to face temporary stock outages.



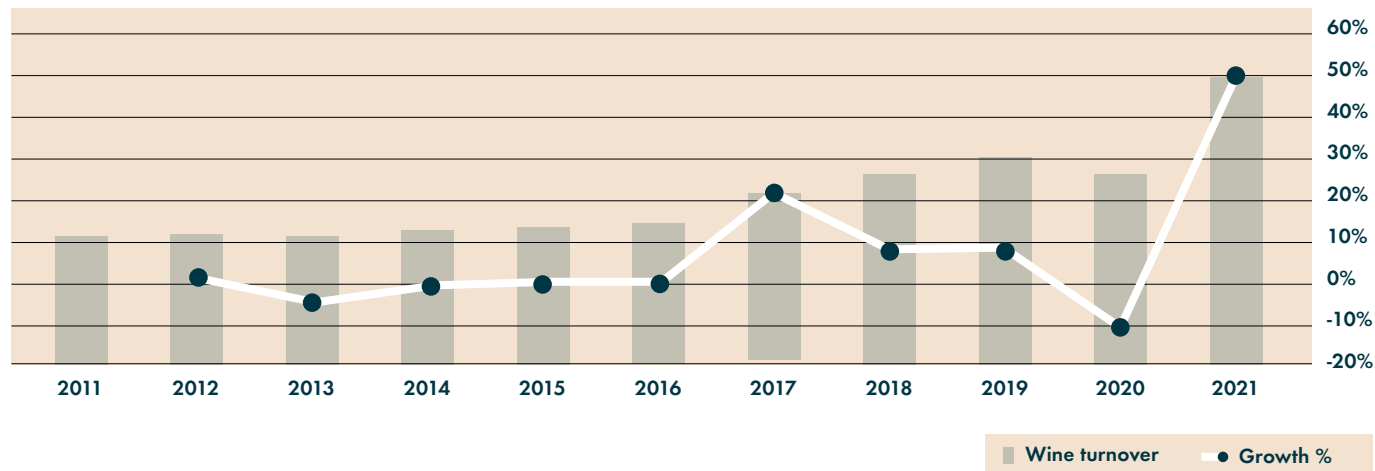
Franciacorta on pupitre or lectern



However, in December sales on several references were stopped due to product exhaustion, sales that were rescheduled starting from the beginning of 2022 depending on availability. In this case the scarcity of the product and the consequent allocation are the result of quantitatively difficult harvests of the previous years which did not allow full production. The results can be considered excellent and the growth has focused above all on the company's historical customers, thus demonstrating

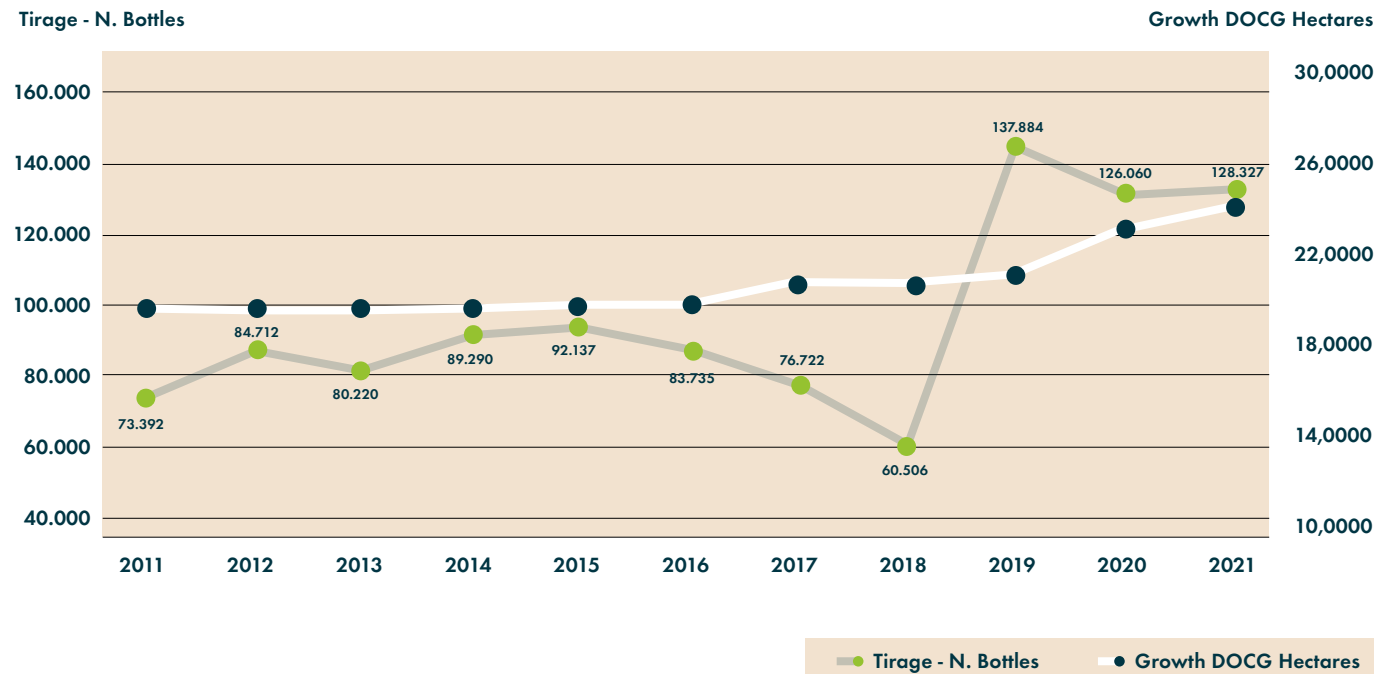
that the work done over the years, and also implemented during the pandemic, of relationship, support and sharing has paid off. The data relating to the seasonal trend were briefly illustrated by the owner during a meeting held with all the staff. The organization has in fact undertaken to carry out a verbalized meeting between property and staff on socio-economic issues at least once a year. During the meeting, the company organization chart, code of ethics and job descriptions were also discussed.

## WINE TURNOVER 2011-2021



In 2021 the company, with the aim of maintaining its economic sustainability also in the future, invested to support its growth by planting new vineyards and keeping the number of bottles produced annually constant.

## GROWTH FRANCIACORTA DOCG HECTARES - TIRAGES



While we were preparing our fifth sustainability report, the re-edition of a book already published in 1997 by Francesco Arrigoni "Franciacorta, stories of vineyards, wines and men" (re-edition by Elio Ghisalberti, "Franciacorta: yesterday, today and tomorrow") has been printed.

**110 Franciacorta companies reviewed in 2021 while there were 44 in 1997, a growth of 150%.**

The hectares of vines declared as directly managed by the companies go from 1027 to 2192 with an increase of 113.4%. In 2021 the vineyards owned by the cellars are 1410 equal to 64.3% of the total hectares, in 1997 they were 577 equal to 56.2%.

**Ricci Curbastro in 1997 owned 75% of hectares (12 out of 16 total) today it has 83.3% of its own vineyard (25 out of 30 hectares).**

The growth of our company in these 25 years has been 87.5% (23.2% more than the average of the Franciacorta area) but at the same time **the percentage of own vineyards has also increased by almost 10%** making the supply of grapes more constant and the growth in the number of bottles produced programmable.

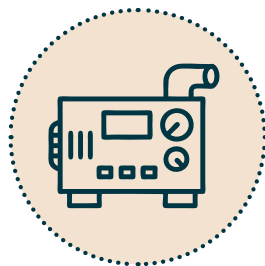
In addition, all those investments in sustainability that characterize the management of the vineyards were thus possible (organic viticulture, grassing, hedges, rows of trees, weather stations, etc.) As a result of these investments, the growth in turnover between 1997 and 2021 was of 380%.





# INVESTMENTS IN FAVOUR OF SUSTAINABILITY

The company has recently made some economic investments in favour of social and environmental sustainability, in particular:



Purchase of a new diesel generator to be used during the harvest period to manage the electricity needs of the cellar with advantages in terms of energy saving and noise.



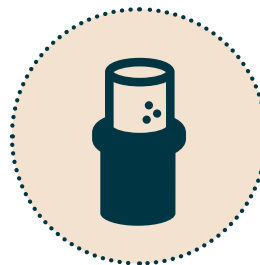
Purchase of a new SAME tractor equipped with a GPS 4.0 system with consequent improvement in comfort for operators and the possibility of tracing the agricultural work carried out to improve operational management efficiency.

Obviously there are still some actions already completed in the past years:



**Bottle weight reduction:**

- from 900 g to 835 g per "champagnotta"
- from 420 g to 360 g for still wine (Curtefranca bottle)



Use of Nomacork closures for still wine with "zero emission".

# RICCI CURBASTRO IN THE FUTURE RESPECT INDEX 2021

**The commitment to sustainable development goals is also a strategic asset for our company and represents a route for our future choices.** We constantly communicate our Sustainable commitment also because we are aware that consumers are still poorly informed about the contents of sustainability itself but also very interested in appreciating its different values. For four years, ConsumerLab has been judging hundreds of Sustainability reports of Italian companies, submitting them to the judgment of experts and consumers, rewarding and giving visibility to the most interesting and accessible financial statements that are included in the Future Respect Index.

**Ricci Curbastro** *"for having illustrated its sustainable governance in an understandable and comprehensive way by facilitating conscious choices by consumers. For highlighting the best practices useful for promoting the culture of Sustainability, with an effective, engaging and distinctive narrative",* **it was entered in the FUTURE RESPECT INDEX 2021.**

ConsumerLab surveyed 1501 financial statements in 2021, selected 201 of which 50, also voted by consumers, entered the Index; 50 companies that together exceed 80 billion in turnover with over 198,000 employees.

**For a small agricultural company like Ricci Curbastro a great result that makes us proud and that we want to share with you who will read our 2021 sustainability report.**

Our commitment continues, aware of the fact that we took a good path in 2017 but that the path is still long and full of new opportunities and satisfactions for us and our customers.



Redstart, male, on artificial nest

Blackbird nest *Turdus merula* among the Chardonnay of the Bosco Alto vineyard





# 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**

**PNS 2022** for the purchase of a new computer station to improve employee performance and working comfort, purchase of new machinery (rotating head sanitization system for barrique) to make the cleaning and storage process of oak casks more efficient; purchase of a new overlapping gyropallet with four stations to increase the number of bottles that can be disgorged during the year and favor a longer aging of post disgorging.

**2**

Application for planting of about 0.6 ha with the use of rights in the portfolio with the aim of completing the planting of the vineyard in Colzano.

**3**

Beginning of a social and environmental collaboration for the recovery and enhancement of used wood deriving from the company's barriques no longer in use.

# 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.



# THE IMPROVEMENT GOALS

In relation to the improvement objectives emphasised in previous reports and set as improvement objectives for the three-year period, the following is highlighted:



The increase in corporate biodiversity, through targeted management actions.

Aware that this is a process and a long-term goal, we continued with the analysis and assessment of corporate biodiversity in order to build a reference history. Agronomic activities continue with the aim of improving biodiversity indicators. During the 2022 campaign, the start of a research and study project with the University of Brescia on the biodiversity of the vineyard is expected.





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.03 del 01/04/2020**

Per le seguenti attività

For the following activities

Produzione, affinamento e confezionamento di vini fermi e frizzanti in bottiglie di vetro. Controllo dei processi di lavorazione in campagna e di cantina parzialmente affidate in outsourcing. Esclusioni: nessuna.

#### Indicatori ambientali valutati:

Biodiversità;

Impronta carbonica aziendale;

Impronta idrica aziendale.

This certificate remains the property of: CSQA Certificazioni S.r.l., Via San Gaetano, 74 – 36016 Thiene (VI) (TAC7 1-39) (0445 31 30 11; [www.csqa.it](http://www.csqa.it))

Il presente certificato è soggetto al rispetto del regolamento CSQA. La validità del presente certificato è subordinata a sorveglianza periodica e rinnovo triennale. This certificate will satisfy the requirements established by CSQA. The validity of this Certificate depends on periodic surveillance and renewal every three years.

Prima emissione: 13/04/2018  
First issue:  
Emissione corrente: 19/07/2021  
Current issue:  
Scadenza: 12/04/2024  
Expiry date

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

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# EQUALITAS CERTIFICATION









**RICCI CURBASTRO**

*Franciacorta*

**THANK YOU FOR READING!**  
For any inquiries, do not hesitate  
to contact us at the following e-mail:  
**[info@riccicurbastro.it](mailto:info@riccicurbastro.it)**

Grape leaves