

Komen, Kras (Carso), Province of Littoral

Established: 1989

Owner: Marko Fon

Winemaker: Marko Fon

Production: 6,000 bottles

Hectares under vine: 4

Viticulture: Natural

Vegan Friendly



If you slip over the Italian border heading east through Friuli to Slovenia, and hug the Mediterranean, you end up in the region known locally as Kras. The region straddles northeastern Italy and southwestern Slovenia and is one of the world's few wine regions to share countries. The region is renowned for its rocky limestone, known locally as kras (Slovenian) or karst (Italian). The word karst is used the world over to describe landscapes where the rock (usually limestone) is being slowly dissolved by water, giving rise to a range of interesting features above ground (such as sinkholes) and below (caves).

This tough land is predominately toiled by farmers growing what produce they need, and a few brave winemakers. The three local grapes are Malvazija (Malvasia Istriana), Vitovska (a cross between Malvasia and Prosecco) and Terran (Refosco). Marko works his vineyards, one of which is over one hundred years old, entirely by hand without use of herbicides, fertilizers and systemic treatments. In the cellar the grapes are fermented on skins for a few days and aged in a combination of stainless steel and old oak before being bottled unfined and unfiltered. These are characterful wines full of energy made by a true artisan and they age beautifully.

Malvasija

Marko's Malvasija is a benchmark for the variety, expertly balancing the variety's perfumed aromatics with a herbal, savoury note. We had the pleasure of tasting this wine back ten years and it shows a wonderful freshness and clarity. The nose displays classic notes of apricot and candied oranges with wild herbs and ginger, the palate honey-rich and citrus-refreshing at the same time.

Vitovska

The name Vitovska has Slovenian routes. In the past the coast of the Gulf of Trieste was protected by chevaliers, or vitezi in Slovenian. In exchange for his services, a vitez received a measure of wine, which became known as Vitovska. The vine itself is actually a cross between Prosecco and Malvasia. On the nose there are hints of pine, juniper and white flowers, the palate is structured and focused with yellow fruits, honey and herbs and a salty refreshing finish.

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