Villa Russiz: where wine excellence and concrete solidarity come together

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I only recently learned about Villa Russiz's commitment to **solidarity**, embodied in their **Casa Famiglia project**, a **refuge of hope** and **growth** for **children and teenagers in difficulty**, offering them a **safe and family-like environment**.

I felt **ashamed** of my ignorance, but at the same time, I understood even more the **value** of this historic winery in the heart of **Collio**, which has never sought to **boast** about such an extraordinary and socially impactful project.

The history of **Casa Famiglia** has deep roots. It originates from the **charitable work** of **Countess Elvine Ritter de Zahony** and **Countess Adele Cerruti**, who transformed Villa

Russiz into a **military hospital** and **lazaret** during the **Great War**. Today, the **Fondazione Villa Russiz** continues this tradition of **care and hospitality**, investing the **profits**from its **agricultural and real estate operations** into the **care and education** of the **children it welcomes**.

In short, **Casa Famiglia** at **Villa Russiz** is more than just a **shelter**: it is a place where **children and teenagers** can regain **hope**, develop their **skills**, and build a **better future** thanks to the **loving care** and **educational support** they receive.

However, it was during a **recent visit** to Villa Russiz, guided by the **excellent storytelling** of its director **Giulio Gregoretti**, that I fully grasped the **many values** that make this a **unique reality** in the **Italian wine landscape**.

The story of **Villa Russiz** is a truly fascinating one, intertwining **love, passion for the land, and dedication to winemaking**. Founded in **1868**, the estate was born from the union of **Elvine Ritter de Zahony** and **Count Theodor Karl Leopold Anton de la Tour Voivrè**. Given to them by **Elvine's father**, the **Russiz estate**, nestled in the **gentle hills**of the **Collio Goriziano**, became the heart of an **extraordinary winemaking venture**.

Theodor, an **expert agronomist and winemaker**, immediately recognized the **potential** of the **territory**. Introducing **innovative cultivation techniques** and **French grape varieties**, he laid the foundation for the **future success** of **Villa Russiz**. **Legend** has it that the count **transported French vine cuttings** in **bouquets of flowers** as gifts for his wife, symbolizing the **union of love and labor**.

In the following years, under the leadership of **Edino Menotti**, the **winery** underwent **renovation** with the **support of the local community**, aiming to **produce wines of the highest quality**.

Its **inclusion** in the **Consorzio Collio** in **1964** and the **achievement of DOC status** in **1968** marked **key milestones** in the **pursuit of excellence** at **Villa Russiz**.

Today, the **Foundation** continues to **innovate** and receives **prestigious awards**, such as the **Gambero Rosso prize** for **Gräfin de La Tour** and the **Cangrande della Scala medal** at **Vinitaly**. The **Cru line** dedicated to **Theodor De La Tour**and the **Limited Edition Sauvignon Bleu** are clear testaments to its **ongoing commitment** to **quality and elegance**.

But **Villa Russiz** also **perfectly embodies** the **exceptional wine-growing vocation** of **Collio**, a **territory** with **few rivals in the world** when it comes to **enhancing the quality of wines**, especially **white wines**.

The **tasting experience** I had within the **charming historic rooms** of the **Villa** allowed me to truly understand how this **winery** serves as an **outstanding interpreter** of the **oenological values** of **Collio**, which can be summed up as: **elegance, finesse, drinkability, and longevity**.

Achieving the **perfect balance** between **extreme elegance** and **immediate pleasure** is no easy feat, yet the **wines of Villa Russiz** express this beautifully. Take the **Friulano**, for example, which is sometimes **underestimated** but which I like to describe as a **"Democratic Nobility"—an excellence accessible to all**. This is a **rare quality**, one that only a **few wines worldwide** can claim.

Not to mention that in these very **gentle hills**, **Sauvignon Blanc** has found an **ideal habitat**, reaching **qualitative peaks**that I have rarely encountered, even in **international terroirs** considered **highly suited** for this **variety**.

Yet, I would fail to fully capture the **identity** of **Villa Russiz** if I did not mention its **strong hospitality vocation** and **constant commitment** to developing its **wine tourism offering**.

Already today, **Villa Russiz** is an **unmissable stop** for those **seeking authentic wine destinations**—places that **speak of history** yet remain **constantly contemporary**. Places where one can **admire a captivating rural and vineyard landscape**, witnessing the **visionary courage** of **entrepreneurs** who have **preserved it at its best**.

In these weeks, **renovation work** on the **Villa** has begun, further **enhancing its hospitality** and positioning it as a **cult destination** on the **global wine tourism scene**.

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