

ITALIA



Obtained by Professor Pirovano in 1911 from a crossing of Bicine with Muscat Hamburg, this vine was at first overlooked. It would have been eliminated, but by chance its complete abandonment was delayed. In fact, after having assessed its behaviour in different environments, it was easy to appreciate the indisputable qualities of the vine which would later become one of the worldwide favourite table grapes. In France it is known with the name of Ideal.

Ampelographic characters: the bud, with an expanded cottony whitish-green apex, has pink-violet shades. The quite large, five-lobed, pentagonal leaf is dark green; it is slightly wavy, smooth, with a hairless flap and is slightly tomentose on the lower side. The petiolar sinus is U-shaped or V-shaped, closed or little opened. The cluster is large, conical-pyramidal with one or two wings, and quite sparse. The large, ovoid berry has a pruinose, quite thick skin, with a beautiful golden yellow colour and a crunchy, juicy pulp with a light and delicate muscat aroma.

Phenological and agronomic characteristics:

Bud-burst period: average-early.

Ripening period: average-late.

Vigour: high.

Real fertility: 1.20.

Yield: rich.

Cluster weight: 700-800 g.

Berry weight: 8-10 g.

Berry seeds: 1-2 per berry.

Sugar content: 15-16%.

Total acidity: 4-5%.

PH: 3.50.

Transportation resistance: excellent.

Training systems and pruning: the best qualitative results are obtained with the “tendone” training system. Pruning, sucking and leaf thinning must be performed promptly.

Susceptibility to diseases and adverse conditions: average; susceptible to rugose wood. It shows incompatibility phenomena on 140Ru.

Overall rating: this vine has clearly taken very much from its “mother” progenitor - Bicine, very vigorous with large and good-looking cluster, and very little from its “father” - Muscat Hamburg, except for the muscat aroma. It has a great resistance to transports, even long-distance ones, and it is appreciated by everyone, becoming hence the “queen of the markets”.

Clones in propagation: Italia VCR5: high-productivity clone with large, pyramidal, semi-compact cluster which has a lower susceptibility to botrytis. Italia VCR10: productive clone of good vigour; medium-sized cluster, less compact than the average varietal; slightly earlier ripening. Inra-Entav 307, 918; CRS121.



CULTIVATED AREA IN ITALY

YEAR	1990	2000	2010
HECTARES	67,105	39,975	24,167

Italia “tendone” in Apulia



Italia espalier plant in Greece

