



Italian wine classification

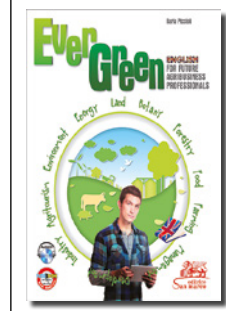
In Italy almost 60 millions of hectolitres¹ of wine are produced each year. Italian wines span over² an impressive variety of tastes and perfumes, that includes superb wines, good quality wines and honest wines to be served in less formal occasions.

In 1963 the Italian government created a system of controlling and naming wines that was modelled after the French AOC wine laws. The system was called DOC, which stands for

Denominazione di Origine Controllata. In 1980, the DOCG wine label was added to classify certain DOC wines.

DOCG stands for *Denominazione di Origine controllata e Garantita*. DOCG wines must adhere to stricter regulations than DOC wines.

Recently, the Italian wine classification has been updated, and the IGT (*Indicazione Geografica Tipica*) class has been introduced.



Italian wine classes	
Label	Description
DOCG	Only a few wines deserve the classification <i>Denominazione di Origine Controllata e Garantita</i> (Certification of Controlled and Guaranteed Origin). The acronym designates the production area. DOCG wines should have outstanding characteristics strictly related to a particular climate, natural environment, culture and should be produced following extremely rigid procedures. DOCG wines should have been classified DOC for at least 5 years, should overcome ³ those wines not only in quality, but also for their cultural and historical relevance, and should be recognised nationally and internationally. It is impossible to sell them in bottles or containers bigger than 5 litres, and are characterised by a State Authority seal.
DOC	In Italy about 250 <i>Denominazione di Origine Controllata</i> (Certification of Controlled Origin) wines are produced. As for DOCG wines, the acronym designates a production area whose wines have strong peculiarities related to climate, natural environment, local culture and, of course, an outstanding quality. Even DOC wines production should follow strict procedures.
IGT	About 120 wines in Italy are classified as <i>Indicazione Geografica Tipica</i> (Typical Geographic Indication) for a total of 25 millions hectolitres each year. The acronym is obviously related to the production area. Also those wine production procedures are coded and documented.
Vino da tavola (Table wine)	This is the classification for the other 25 millions of hectolitres of wine produced each year in Italy.

(Adapted from *The Wineman International*)

GLOSSARY

- 1 one hectolitre is hundred litres
- 2 include
- 3 be superior to

ACTIVITIES

- 1 Answer the following questions.
 - 1 What are Italian wine classes?
 - 2 What is the difference between DOC and DOCG wines?
 - 3 What does the acronym IGT refer to?
 - 4 What are the main features of table wines?
- 2 Read the text again and find synonyms for the following words.
 - 1 Wide range
 - 2 Excellent
 - 3 Rules
 - 4 Methods
 - 5 Importance
 - 6 Flavours

