

Azienda Agricola

RENATO KEBER

Friuli

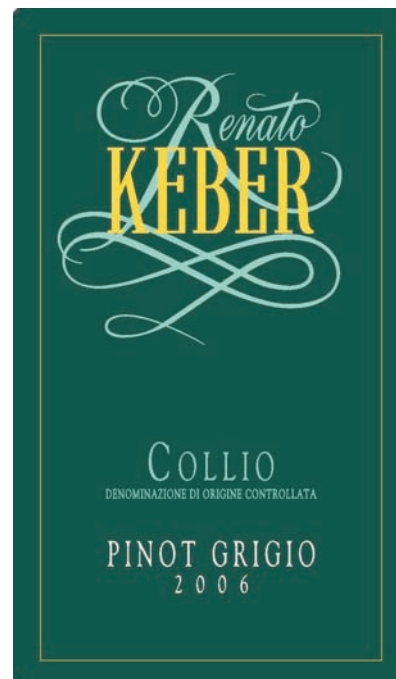
The Collio area of Friuli suffers an odd paradox: it has an exceptional potential, which a handful of producers have brought to fruition, producing wines of great value. Yet its reputation is based on a style of wine whose nature is not qualitative but rather facile and fashionable.

I dislike the quick flash of easy fruit, the mere refreshment of high acid and the superficial crispness of high-tech cleanliness - but all this, with fortunate exceptions, is mostly what the world has applauded and admired and come to expect out of Friuli's wines.

Vie di Romans' wines have shown the supreme elegance, depth and flavor that the Isonzo appellation can yield. Renato Keber, whose vineyards saddle the perfect center and heart of the Collio appellation - the hills of Zegla-Plessiva - makes wines that partake of the best of both worlds. They have

structure and elegance, fragrance and depth, longevity and freshness. All wines have class and character and a lovely lingering quality.

The estate spans 22 hectares, 15 of which are vineyards planted with Ribolla, Pinot Bianco, Pinot Grigio, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Tocai Friulano. Renato Keber, owner and winemaker, with a degree in oenology, does it all, caring for the vineyards as well as the wines. Production is ridiculously low, rarely more than 40 hectolitres per hectare. Which, of course, explains the wonderful varietal character of the wines and their concentration. It also helps that the vineyards were planted in splendid positions from Renato's great-grandfather's time on, the days when these wines delighted the Hapsburg court in Vienna. ◇



Pinot Grigio

Zone:	<i>Collio</i>
Cru:	<i>Plessiva-Zegla</i>
Varietal:	<i>Pinot Grigio</i>
Vineyard Ext.:	<i>2.5 hectares</i>
Average Prod.:	<i>3,500 bottles</i>