

# ROTARY MAGAZINE

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## **Nonino the Distillers in Percoto (Udine)**

Excellence, Solidarity and Protection of Biodiversity

The story of a Friulian company that combines work, with patronage and solidarity. The promoters of the Manos Blancas Chorus of Friuli and of the literary Prize "Risit d'Aur" (*Gold vine shoot*).

The **Nonino Distillatori** from Percoto (Udine) is one of the great excellences of the Friulian land, famous all over the world for its distillates. What makes it special, are the values it is permeated with: love for the land, devotion to work, the patronage for arts and culture, the sensibility towards the world of disability.

The company produces grappa and distillates and it was the first in Italy to produce single varietal grappa.

The greatest merit of the Nonino Distillatori has been the elevation of the quality of this product to give it the extraordinary value that today places it among the gourmet products of Italian excellence. The company has a female management, with **Cristina, Antonella** and **Elisabetta**, the daughters of **Benito** and **Giannola**, who in the seventies started a production and commercial course that turned grappa from Cinderella to a noble Distillate. With the fourth generation the story of an extraordinary Friulian family devoted to work continues. It was started by the family founder, grandfather **Orazio**, who was a distiller that had used an itinerant still since 1897.

The successes and acknowledgements to the **Nonino** Company have followed in great numbers in the latest decades and everywhere in the world.

One of the great merits of the **Nonino** family, who show all their love for the Friulian land and its autochthonous products, was the institution of the **Nonino "Risit d'Aur" (Gold vine shoot) Prize**. The aim of the prize is the preservation of the biodiversity of the territory and is awarded every year to the winemaker who has set to dwelling autochthonous vine varieties and a scholarship to the best work, both technical and historical, about such vine varieties; an act of defense of Friulian values and rural civilization.

The **"Risit d'Aur"** soon became also an international literary prize and in the traditional event of the end of January in Percoto it has counted the most important exponents of

## Centoveinti anni della Famiglia Nonino

Italian and world art, culture and literature, many of whom later became Nobel Prize Laureates.

On the occasion of the Awarding ceremony there is also the performance of the **Manos Blancas Chorus of Friuli**, formed by disabled children who express their musicality with gestures made with their white hands. The principle that gives life to this initiative of the **Noninos** is that "*music is the expression of the soul ... and the soul does not know disabilities*".

The **Manos Blancas Chorus of Friuli** draws its origins from the Venezuelan experience of Maestro **Abreu** and was born thanks to the initiative of the **Noninos** in 2010, following an idea of Maestro **Claudio Abbado** (*Nonino Prizewinner 1999*), after the awarding of the Risit d'Aur Prize 2010 to **Naybeth Garcia** (*director of the Manos Blancas Chorus of Venezuela*), **Johnny Gomez** (teacher in a music school) and the **Manos Blancas Chorus of Venezuela**.

The **Manos Blancas Chorus of Friuli** involves children with sensory and cognitive disabilities, redeeming them through musical education and it was born also because of the commitment of the Association "La Nostra Famiglia" of San Vito al Tagliamento, which dedicates itself to the care and rehabilitation disabled people.

The story of the **Noninos** from Percoto is a beautiful story, of a successful family and company, animated by a noble spirit, the patronage of culture and art and the solidarity with the entire world of disability.

Generosity, as well as disability, has no barriers, when the desire to do good is the winner.

Pietro Rosa Gastaldo

### Pictures

1. Above: *The entrance of the Nonino Distilleries in Percoto (UD).*
2. Right: *The steam stills of the Nonino distillery.*
3. Above: *The Manos Blancas Chorus of Friuli with Giannola Nonino.*
4. Above: *The Jury of the Nonino "Risit d'Aur" (Gold vine shoot) Prize 2017.*