

CORRIERE DELLA SERA

**CORRIERE DEL VENETO** / CUCINA E VINI

**Giannola Nonino, the 83 years of the Lady of grappa: "In January the prize IS COMING back".**

**The birthday of the Friulian entrepreneur, a party among the stills with the night distillation waiting for the literary prize ceremony**

Antonino Padovese



**Giannola Nonino festeggia il suo 83esimo compleanno**

The stills are smoking again in Percoto. In the large WAREHOUSE that for years HAS hosted great writers and intellectuals, later awarded the Nobel Prize, the nightly distillation of grappa is underway. We are in Friuli, Udine is 14 kilometers FAR. Here THERE are the warehouses of the Nonino family, awarded in 2020 in America as the best distillery in the world. The pomace arrives from the WINERIES after the harvest and must be distilled before losing ITS freshness. Benito Nonino, the fourth generation of the Friulian grappa family and husband of the volcanic Giannola, used to say: "The pomace should be distilled fresh, if the work is not finished by sunset it should be continued at night as well".

## **I AM A splendid "trentottina"**

So, in the distillery IN Percoto, the workers load the POMACE into the stills, close them and open them with bolts, while Benito and Giannola's daughters (Cristina, Antonella and Elisabetta) and granddaughter Francesca watch the dance of grappa, which, through pipes and MAINS, arrives in other containers. Normally this process is noisy, the machines are not silent, but for one evening it is accompanied by music. The notes of "Libiamo ne' lieti calici" (La Traviata, BY Verdi) resound in the WAREHOUSE, while Giannola Nonino, the Lady of Grappa, hints at a dance step. September 27<sup>th</sup> is a special day for her: "I'm a splendid TRENTOTTINA ", she has been saying for years when someone dares to ask her age. And this beautiful lady, born in 1938, is celebrating her birthday on September 27 with about twenty guests. "It's nice to start again, it's nice to find you all here. We've started again. And off she goes, shouting "DAMN IT", a phrase that comes from her heart and shows how painfully she has endured lockdowns and closures

## **THE PRIZE IS COMING BACK IN JANUARY**

In 2019, THERE WAS the last edition, dedicated to Ermanno Olmi, the historic juror, who had passed away the year before, THE WINNERS WERE the Friulian from THE Slovenian minority Damian Podversic and, for literature, Juan Octavio Prenz and Anne Applebaum. In 2020 there should have been the 45<sup>th</sup> edition of the Nonino Risit d'Aur Prize, always awarded on the last Saturday of January in the distillery WAREHOUSE, dressed up for the occasion. Instead, at that time the Friulian family was invited to America for the awarding of the prize for the best distillery. No ceremony in 2021 either, Italy was in the middle of THE pandemic. And WHAT ABOUT 2022? "We'll be there, DAMN IT. On January 29 we'll have our CELEBRATION, of course with less PARTY, with some more shrewdness but we'll do it". At Borgo Nonino, the small complex of rural houses that has become a hotel in Persereano (Udine), glasses are raised and bottles are broken while two musicians sing songs and Friulian "villotte" sung at the top of their voices by Giannola Nonino and her daughters. The joy is overwhelming and not only for the good wishes but also for the decision that the activities in presence can start again.