

**ORLANDO**  
**A sip of Piedmont**

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A SIP OF PIEDMONT

A SIP

LA RAIA

OF

ASTEMIA PENTITA, CERETTO

PIED

PICO MACCARIO

MONT



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**N**orthwest Italy. This region is full of **history and wine-producing culture**. Vineyards may be glimpsed upon every hilltop. The terrain, the climate and differing farming traditions have enriched this land with a whole host of different types of grape varieties and of wines.

An area that has always been highly suited to the production of red wines is now investing considerable energy in spreading the word about its excellent white wines and its ability to make sparkling spumante wines, too. What are we presenting?

**Barbera**, a red wine obtained from the grape variety of the same name – for years considered to be a table wine, thanks to wineries such as Ceretto, Pico Maccario and the Astemia Pentita – is now being enhanced by elegant and well-balanced products in styles ranging from the more classic to the more modern and versatile.

**Gavi**, a white wine from the province of Alessandria finely interprets the tradition of the area in which it is made and encapsulates the typical characteristics of the **Cortese** variety from where it comes. The wine from the La Raia winery is fragrant, full-bodied and wholly sincere and, furthermore, is made biodynamically. It becomes sparkling, fresh to the taste and never unsurprising in the bubbly versions that are made by different wineries in the very same area.

It is not all about wine, though. There is art, too. La Raia, Astemia Pentita, Ceretto, Pico Maccario are teeming with art and architectural works which are magnificently attuned to the surrounding countryside – a rural landscape of which they are only now becoming part.

# GROWING IN THE VINEYARD: THE LA RAIA WINERY

**A**n elegant gate opens upon a long tree-lined avenue. We are in Monterotondo, a little hamlet on the Gavi hills (province of Alessandria), the realm of the Cortese grape variety. The story here began in 2003 when **Giorgio Rossi Cairo** acquired the company with a strong desire to produce wine so that he would be able to rediscover the authentic characteristics of this particular area. The Gavi DOCG is the result of his passion. The wine is the fruit of old vineyards that have been cultivated according to **biodynamic principles, a harvest** that has always been undertaken rigorously **by hand** and **indigenous yeasts** that have enabled the vineyard to achieve the **Demeter certification** – a certified document that proves the highest quality of the grapes as well as all the wine-making processes. The Gavi DOCG is a white wine that is distinguished by the broad spectrum of its olfactory notes, by its **fresh flavour**, by its full-bodiedness and by its **extraordinary longevity**. It has now branched out into four main versions: the Riserva, the Vigna della Madonnina and the Pisè.

La Raia is a highly original winery. It combines **wine with art** – artists, philosophers, architects and photographers are invited to spend time on the estate; to experience it, to explore it and to transpose it into a work of art. Witnesses to this philosophy are the permanent works of art on display such as pieces by Koo Jeong A, Michael Beutler, Adrien Missika or Remo Salvadori.

**La Raia also means education.** Since 2005, it has been the headquarters of the **“Intorno al melo” project**, an infant school run along the lines of **Rudolf Steiner**. Since 2010, it has been enlarged into a school project and has hosted a class of twenty young children. It has offered a programme that enables Nature, craftsmanship and education to relate to each other – a programme that has been driven by specialised staff and offers continual training for adults as well as conferences for the development and enhancement of the method being applied.

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IN LA RAIA YOU CAN DISCOVER THESE ART WORKS:

***Nel momento* – Remo Salvadori**

A vertical installation of sixteen elements in tin placed upon the south-facing facade of the owner's house.

***Continuo infinito presente* – Remo Salvadori**

A ring with neither a beginning nor an end made of steel cables; it was made in the presence of the guests on the day of inauguration.

***Sabato piantare il cipresso* – Remo Salvadori**

Along the main path inside the estate; made of marble, lead, water and officinal essences.

***OUSSER* – Koo Jeong A.**

A glazed wall painting that comes to life when daylight fades; it was made upon the wall of one of the buildings in Borgo Merlassino.

***Bales 2014/2017* – Michael Beutler**

Plastic, colourful bales which are visible to people who are on the road to Gavi; a work that brings into focus the complex relationship between the natural and the artificial and between industrial labour and attention paid towards Nature.

***Palazzo delle Api* – Adrien Missika**

A pyramid-shaped sculpture in luserna stone; overturned, with different-sized holes dug into the stone in order to provide a shelter for bees.

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