

2020 HARVEST UNDERWAY. HOW ARE ITALY'S MOST REPRESENTATIVE VARIETIES FARING?

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24 September 2020. Italy's harvest is at the halfway point, and we asked, "How are they doing?" about the Country's most classic grapes.

(...)

Nerello Mascalese. The iconic variety of Mount Etna, which makes one of Sicily's most sought-after wines, is one of the last-harvested grapes. At **Passopisciaro** (26 hectares of vineyard), one of the very first producers to divine the quality potential of this particular Sicilian terroir, the berries are looking fine indeed and ripeness is proceeding apace, thanks to end-of-summer heat and day-night temperature differentials that vary as much as 20o. Director Vincenzo Lo Mauro exudes positivity: "If weather conditions continue this way, we'll start picking towards the end of October." Contrada Rampante, the estate's highest vineyard area, will be in all likelihood the last to be harvested, but as Lo Mauro, with more than 20 harvests under his belt, underscores, every season speaks its own unique language, and in the world of wine, perhaps more so than in others, one never stops learning.

And how could we argue?