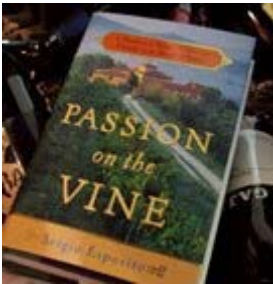


MIAMI LOVES ITALIAN WINE

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Passion on the Vine

By Miami Vinifera



If you don't have the time or the funds to escape to Italy, this book is a great alternative. "Passion on the Vine" was written by Sergio Esposito, the largest exclusive Italian wine merchant in the country; hence the name, Italian Wine Merchants in New York City. I'm very familiar with Italian Wine Merchants, not only because of my fascination of Italian wine, but because <http://www.italianwinermerchant.com/> has been a great resource for me.

When I started with Vinifera, I was given an extensive Italian portfolio, 12 bottles of fine wine, and a list of establishments that worked had with us in the past. I always tried to do as much due diligence before visiting clients by researching my producers over the Internet. Because most of our producers are very small in production and believe in letting the wine "speak for itself", they didn't have websites, or if they did, they were in Italian. Where I did find great information was on <http://www.italianwinermerchant.com/>; they do a fantastic job explaining the history and the passion of the producer behind the wine.

The story of "Passion on the Vine" starts off when Sergio was just a little boy in Italy where he was spoiled with fresh, milky, salty, mozzarella and whole roasted fish made by his mother in their tiny kitchen. The large extended family that lived steps from his home, crowding into each other homes to enjoy magnificent meals and conversation, reminded me so much of my childhood; except we ate Korean food! The story then goes on to Sergio's move to America and how his passion for his native Italian wine unfolds.

There's a paragraph in the book that explains the basis of Italian wine and why everyone falls in love with it; "Priests and alchemists made and analyzed wine according to what they considered its three properties: spirit, soul, and salt. the wine's spirit was its alcohol; its soul was its individuality, its fragrance and territorio, how it demonstrated the land from which it came; and its salt was its body." I encourage any lover of wine to read this book. I'm only half way through it and my love for Italian wine has grown and I didn't think that was possible! (I say the same about my husband...) I plan on doing a summary blog of the book, but wanted to share what I have discovered. Of my Italian Wine book collection, this is by far the most passionate, real, and relatable story yet.