



Rules of Use of the certification mark “CONEGLIANO VALDOBBIADENE - PROSECCO”

Art. 1 – Object and purpose of the Rules of Use

The Rules of Use herein (hereinafter the “Rules”) defines the conditions and the modalities of use of the certification mark “Conegliano Valdobbiadene - Prosecco”, adopted by Consorzio Tutela Vino Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco in order to allow the identification of wines with the controlled and guaranteed designation of origin “Conegliano Valdobbiadene - Prosecco”.

The certification mark “Conegliano Valdobbiadene - Prosecco” (hereinafter the “Mark”) can be used to distinguish only wines which have all the necessary requirements established by the Disciplinary Rules of Production of wines with the controlled and guaranteed designation of origin “Conegliano Valdobbiadene - Prosecco” (hereinafter the “Disciplinary Rules”), approved by Decree of the Italian Ministry of Agricultural Politics dated 17.07.2009 (and subsequent amendments and additions) and which comply with the provisions of the Rules herein.

Art. 2 –Mark and use of the same

The Mark consists of the words “Conegliano Valdobbiadene - Prosecco”.

The members of the Consorzio Tutela Vino Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco and the other authorized subjects on the basis of the Rules herein can use the Mark only within the limits established by the Disciplinary Rules, which are enclosed to the Rules herein.

The use of the Mark cannot in any way be such as to damage the prestige and the reputation of the wine with controlled and guaranteed designation of origin “Conegliano Valdobbiadene - Prosecco” and must be made in compliance with the national and European Community laws regulating this matter.

Art. 3 – Owner of the mark

The owner of the mark is the Consorzio Tutela del Vino Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco having its legal office in Piazza Libertà 7– Solighetto – I-31053 Pieve di Soligo - (TV), Italy (hereinafter the “Consortium”).

The Consortium is a non-profit organisation established by the professional categories involved in the protected designation of origin . Subsequent to the Ministerial recognition under article 17, paragraphs 1 and 4 of Italian Legislative Decree 61/2010, the Consortium has taken on the qualification of inter-professional organisation as per article 125/sexdecies, § 1 letter b) of EC Regulation 1234/2007 and performs the functions of protection, promotion, development, consumer information and general care of the interests of the protected designation.

CONSORZIO TUTELA DEL VINO CONEGLIANO VALDOBBIADENE PROSECCO

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PARTITA IVA 00730120268

The activity and the purposes of the Consortium are regulated by Article 3 of the Consortium Bylaws. The bodies of the Consortium, their powers of representation and their functions are governed by Articles 12 to 23 of the Consortium Bylaws, attached to the present Rules.

Art. 4 – Subjects authorized to use the Mark

The use of the Mark to distinguish the wine with controlled and guaranteed designation of origin “Conegliano Valdobbiadene - Prosecco” is allowed to the members of the Consortium and to vine-growers, wine-makers and bottlers who respect the Rules herein and the provisions of the Disciplinary Rules.

The admission is granted to all the subjects interested in the designation, according to requirements provided in Article 4 of the Consortium Bylaws.

Art. 5 – Product

The Mark identifies and protects the wines with controlled and guaranteed designation of origin “Conegliano Valdobbiadene - Prosecco”, produced and bottled according to the Disciplinary Rules of Production, in Class 33 of the Nice International Classification for the registration of trade marks.

Art. 6 –Vigilance

The Consortium exercises within the limits provided by the laws regulating this matter, all the necessary vigilance to guarantee that the use of the Mark is made in respect of the Rules herein and in the full respect of the Disciplinary Rules.

Art 7. – Sanctions

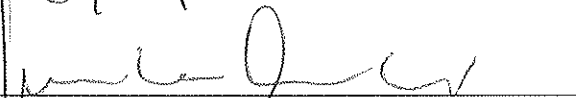
In case of misuse of the Mark, or use of any signs which are in violation of the Mark and / or are misleading on the origin, characteristics and quality of the wine protected by the Mark, the sanctions referred to in Article 7 of the Consortium Bylaws may be applicable, as well as the system of sanctions under Italian Legislative Decree 61/2010 and subsequent amendments thereof.

Place: Solighetto

Date:

29 September 2015

Signature



On behalf of the Consorzio Tutela Vino Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco
The President : Innocente Nardi

DISCIPLINARY RULES OF PRODUCTION OF THE
REGISTERED AND GUARANTEED DESIGNATION OF
ORIGIN OF
«CONEGLIANO VALDOBBIADENE – PROSECCO» WINES

Article 1.

Designation and wines

1. The registered and guaranteed designation of origin «Conegliano Valdobbiadene – Prosecco», or «Conegliano – Prosecco» or «Valdobbiadene – Prosecco» is reserved for wines which meet the conditions and requirements established in this production specification, for the following types:

- «Conegliano Valdobbiadene - Prosecco»;
- «Conegliano Valdobbiadene - Prosecco» frizzante (semi-sparkling);
- «Conegliano Valdobbiadene - Prosecco» spumante (sparkling), followed by the term «superior».

2. The term «Superiore di Cartizze» is reserved for the sparkling wine of the designation specified in paragraph 1, obtained in the traditional subarea within the limits and on the conditions established in this specification.

Article 2.

Ampelographic base

1. The «Conegliano Valdobbiadene - Prosecco» wines shall be obtained from grapes originating from vineyards consisting of the Glera vine variety; within a company's production process one or more of the following grape varieties may be included up to a maximum of 15%: Verdiso, Bianchetta trevigiana, Perera and Glera lunga.

2. Wines destined for traditional processes governed by the third paragraph of article 5, shall be obtained from grapes originating from vineyards located within the area specified in letter C) of the first paragraph of article 3, registered in the DOCG register, consisting of one or more of the following vine varieties: Pinot bianco, Pinot nero, Pinot grigio and Chardonnay.

Art. 3.

Production areas of the grapes

1. The production area of the grapes suitable for the production of the registered and guaranteed designation of origin «Conegliano Valdobbiadene - Prosecco» wines located within the production area of the controlled designation of origin «Prosecco», is delimited as follows:

A) The production area of the grapes suitable for obtaining the «Conegliano Valdobbiadene - Prosecco» wines specified in point 1) of article 1, comprises the hilly territory of the municipalities of: Conegliano - San Vendemiano - Colle Umberto - Vittorio Veneto - Tarzo - Cison di Valmarino - San Pietro di Feletto - Refrontolo - Susegana - Pieve di Soligo - Farra di Soligo - Follina - Miane - Vidor - Valdobbiadene.

More specifically, this area is delimited as follows: starting point for the description of the boundaries is taken as the district of Fornace (alt. 175) around three kilometers west of Valdobbiadene, where the administrative boundary between the municipalities of Valdobbiadene and Segusino meets the Valdobbiadene-Segusino road.

The administrative boundary between these municipalities then continues as far as Col Antich, where it meets the contour at altitude 500 m, which it follows until Ca' Pardolin, near Combai; from here it leaves the altitude 500 m and continues along the footpath, which

leads to the main square of the town first along via Cimavilla and then via Trieste. Then, following the road that leads to the church, it reaches the Duel dairy, then, running along the ridge of the hill, it crosses the Miane-Campea road, climbs up Mount Tenade and, always following the ridge of the hill, reaches the district Tre Ponti on the Follina-Pieve di Soligo road.

Having crossed the road, the boundary climbs up the hill Croda di Zuel and running along the ridge passes above the small church of S. Lucia at an altitude of 356 above «Zuel di là», and above Resera; the boundary then follows the Resera-Tarzo road until it joins Revine-Tarzo. From the aforesaid junction the boundary, always following this road, reaches Tarzo and then Corbanese until, at the intersection with the Refrontolo-Cozzuolo road, in the district of Ponte Maset, it follows the boundary between the municipalities of Tarzo and Vittorio Veneto until it reaches the local road called «dei Piai» and «delle Perdonanze»; it then follows said road until it meets rio Cervada, where it descends along the Cervada until it meets the Cozzuolo-Vittorio Veneto road and continues towards the latter as far as the intersection with the road that from Conegliano leads to the centre of Vittorio Veneto; it then descends towards Conegliano as far as S. Giacomo di Veglia and here it turns towards S. Martino di Colle Umberto. After borgo Campion it turns right along the urban road of S. Martino and reaches Colle Umberto where it runs along the trunk road No. 51 (also called Alemagna) as far as toll booth No. 5 and from here it continues towards Conegliano.

At the Gai junction, having passed the intersection with the Pontebbana or trunk road 13, it follows the new ring road of the town of Conegliano and joins the same trunk road 13 in the Ferrera district.

From this junction the boundary reaches Susegana and immediately after the town turns west along the road leading to Colfosco, also called the Barca road.

From Colfosco, following the «Mercatelli» road, the boundary continues as far as the junction for Falze' where it turns and reaches Pieve di Soligo along the old road (Ponte Priula - Pieve di Soligo and which leads to via Chisini).

Having crossed through the town centre, the boundary, following via Schiratti, reaches Soligo where it turns left and continues along the Soligo - Ponte di Vidor main road, crossing through Farra di Soligo, Col S. Martino, Colbertaldo, Vidor to arrive at Ponte di Vidor, leaving it on the left before arriving at Bigolino. After Bigolino the boundary leaves the road which leads to Valdobbiadene, turning left and following the country road of the ENEL (Electricity Board) power station, to reach the village of Villanova as far as the crossing of the stream La Roggia. It follows said stream as far as the alluvial terrace that rises up sharply above the river Piave, runs along the edge of the terrace (see enclosed regional map «Definizione limite terrazza alluvionale» [Definition of the alluvial terrace limit]) and then climbs along the Valdobbiadene-Segusino road at the point of the small church S. Giovanni after S. Vito; from here, running along the Valdobbiadene-Segusino main road, it reaches the district of Fornace once again, thereby closing the perimeter of the delimited area.

B) The sparkling wine obtained from grapes harvested in the territory of the district of S. Pietro di Barbozza, called Cartizze, in the Municipality of Valdobbiadene, is entitled to the sub-specification «Superiore di Cartizze».

This subarea is delimited as follows: starting point is taken as the bridge over the river Teva to the west of Soprapiana on the Piovine-Soprapiana local road, between the house «casa C. Boret» (alt. 184) and Soprapiana (alt. 197). From this point the boundary rises to the north following the river Teva until it joins the brook Zente which it follows until it joins the brook Piagar; it continues to follow the brook Piagar until the point where map sections Nos. 63.71 meet up (municipality of S. Pietro di Barbozza, sect. B, sheet VII).

From this point of the aforesaid map sections the boundary runs between map sections Nos. 547 and 735, cuts across map sections Nos. 540 and 543, going in the same direction as the last stretch which divides map sections Nos. 547 and 735 until it reaches the northern limit of the map section at 542 as far as the junction with the country road Vettorazzi.

The boundary runs northwards along the aforesaid road, then at the first junction (fountain of the «bicio») it follows the local road Mengazzzi as far as the intersection of the road with the ridge of Mount Vettoraz, it runs along the ridge of the hill, passes above the house «casa Miotto» and reaches the local road «Tresiese» (three hedges).

The boundary continues along the aforesaid road until it reaches the local road «dei Mont», at the first bend of which (map section No. III of the municipality of S. Pietro di Barbozza, sect. b, sheet X), it climbs up, skirting the top of the vineyard land before descending again to rejoin the road «dei Mont» near the shrine.

The boundary runs along the road as far as the intersection with the country road «di Piander», descends along the local road «dello Strett» and continues in the same direction, reaching the Saccol-Follo road to the east of the house «casa Sergio Agostinetto», then descends along the «cal de Sciap» lane, and reaches the Valle della Rivetta (rio Borgo) stream; the boundary follows the stream up to the delimitation of map sections 149 and 151 of the municipality of Valdobbiadene, sub-section B, sheet XI, continuing northwards between map sections 149-151, and 148-151, crossing the local road «del Campion», passing between map sections 178-184, 179-184, 179-167, 179-182, 181-185 and reaching the brook of Tevicella, embracing Col Zancher and Pra Ospitale; it then runs between map sections 21-65 of the district of S. Pietro di Barbozza, sub-section B, sheet XIII, then sections 22-67 and 66-67, across the road «dei Bisoi» (fordera), reaching the country road «del Cavalier» between sections 24-28, and finally, along the same road, returns to the starting point (the bridge over the Teva).

C) The production area of the grape varieties Pinot Bianco, Pinot Nero, Pinot Grigio and Chardonnay, destined for the traditional processes described under point 3 of article 5, includes the administrative territory of the following municipalities in the province of Treviso: Cappella Maggiore; Cison di Valmarino; Colle Umberto; Conegliano; Cordignano; Farra di Soligo; Follina; Fregona; Miane; Pieve di Soligo; Refrontolo; Revine Lago; San Fior; San Pietro di Feletto; San Vendemiano; Sarmede; Segusino; Susegana; Tarzo; Valdobbiadene; Vidor; Vittorio Veneto; Asolo; Caerano S. Marco; Castelcuoco; Cavaso del Tomba; Comuda; Crocetta del Montello; Fonte; Gavera del Montello; Maser; Monfumo; Montebelluna; Nervesa della Battaglia, Pademo del Grappa; Pederobba; Possagno; S. Zenone degli Ezzelini; Volpago del Montello; Borsò del Grappa and Crespano del Grappa.

Article 4.

Viticulture regulations

1. Natural conditions of the environment. The environmental conditions and growing methods of vineyards destined for the production of «Conegliano-Valdobbiadene - Prosecco» wine shall conform to local traditions and in any case be such as to produce grapes and resulting wines with the specific quality characteristics of the area.

For the purposes of inclusion in the register, only vineyards with a good exposure located on hillside terrain are therefore deemed suitable, with the exclusion of vineyards at the bottom of a valley, those exposed to the North wind and those growing in the lower plains.

2. Planting density. As from 16 June 2007, the minimum plantation density of single-crop vineyards shall be 2,500 vines per hectare, calculated on the plantation spacing.

3. Training methods. The allowed plantation spacing and training methods are those in use in the area, i.e. single or double espalier. Forms of training with expanding canopy/radiating systems (e.g. Raggio Bellussi) are prohibited.

The Region may allow different training methods, provided they are suitable for improving management of the vineyards without having negative effects on the characteristics of the grapes.

4. Pruning methods. With regard to the aforesaid training systems, the vines shall be pruned in the traditional manner and vineyards shall in any case be managed in such a way so as not to change the characteristics of the grapes, must and wine.

5. All practices of forcing are prohibited. Supplemental irrigation is allowed.

6. Harvesting. Grapes destined for the production of sparkling wines whose labels bear the term «Rive» shall be harvested exclusively by hand.

7. Yield per hectare and minimum natural alcoholic strength.

For registered and guaranteed designation of origin «Conegliano Valdobbiadene - Prosecco» wines as specified in the first paragraph of article 1, the maximum grape/hectare yield of single-crop vineyards shall not exceed 13.50 tonnes and the grapes destined for vinification shall have a minimum natural alcoholic strength by volume of 9.50%.

For the DOCG «Conegliano Valdobbiadene - Prosecco» Spumante Superiore wines, designated with the term «Rive» as specified in paragraph 7 of article 7, the maximum grape/hectare yield of single-crop vineyards shall not exceed 13.00 tonnes and the grapes destined for vinification shall have a minimum natural alcoholic strength by volume of 9.50%. Grapes destined for the registered designation of origin «Conegliano Valdobbiadene - Prosecco» Spumante Superiore and Frizzante wines may have a minimum natural alcoholic strength by volume of 9.00%, provided the destination of the grapes to be processed is expressly declared in the official winery documents and in the annual grape report. However, in the event of unfavorable climate conditions, an exception may be granted under article 7 of EC regulation 1607/2000.

For Spumante (sparkling) wines entitled to the term «Superiore di Cartizze», as specified in the second paragraph of article 1, the maximum yield of grapes per hectare of single-crop vineyards shall not exceed 12.00 tons, and the grapes destined for vinification shall have a minimum natural alcoholic strength by volume of 9.50%.

Even for exceptionally good vintages, the quantity of grapes per hectare to be destined for the production of registered and guaranteed designation of origin «Conegliano Valdobbiadene - Prosecco» wines shall be reduced to within the aforementioned limits, provided that production does not exceed the same limits by more than 20%.

Upon justified request by the Regulatory Body (Consorzio di Tutela) for the protection of this designation of origin, and after consultation with the categories concerned, Regione Veneto may establish, by means of an independent ruling to be issued each year in the period immediately preceding the harvest, to reduce the quantity of grapes per hectare that may be claimed, also with reference to single geographical areas, compared to the limits set out in this paragraph, immediately notifying the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies – National Committee for the Protection and Development of Designations of Origin and of Typical Geographical Indications of Wines thereof.

For vineyards with associated crops the maximum production of grapes per hectare shall be calculated in relation to the surface actually occupied by the vine.

Article 5.

Rules for vinification

1. VINIFICATION.

Vinification of the grapes, as set out in article 2, shall be carried out within the municipalities of the delimited production area specified under letter A) of the first paragraph of article 3, even if they are only partially included in the delimited area.

Grapes of the Pinot bianco, Pinot nero, Pinot grigio and Chardonnay varieties, destined for traditional processes as specified in paragraph 3 of this article, may be vinified in the whole area

described under letter C) of the first paragraph of article 3; furthermore, taking into account the traditional production processes, the aforesaid vinification operations may be carried out within the whole administrative territory of the municipality of Orsago in the province of Treviso.

With regard to the subarea «Superiore di Cartizze», vinification shall be carried out within the territory of the municipality of Valdobbiadene.

Vinification shall be carried out solely by means of the traditional, genuine and consistent winemaking practices of the area, which give the wines their distinctive characteristics.

2. PROCESSING.

Preparation of the sparkling and semi-sparkling wine, that is, the oenological processes involved in the secondary fermentation, stabilisation, sweetening in the types where it is permitted, as well as bottling and packaging shall be carried out within the territory of the province of Treviso.

The registered and guaranteed designation of origin «Conegliano Valdobbiadene - Prosecco» wines processed in the sparkling version may be marketed in all the types allowed by current legislation, with the exclusion of «extra-brut» and «dolce».

The registered and guaranteed designation of origin «Conegliano Valdobbiadene - Prosecco» wines processed in the semi-sparkling version shall be marketed in all the types ranging from «Dry» to «Sweet» inclusive, as laid down by current legislation.

The Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies – National Committee for the Protection and Development of Designations of Origin and of Typical Geographical Indications of Wines has the authority to allow the aforesaid preparation activities to be carried out in facilities located in the province of Venice, provided that the firms concerned have produced in said facilities sparkling and semi-sparkling wines for at least 10 years prior to the coming into force of Italian Presidential Decree No. 930 of 12 July 1963, using as a base the «Conegliano Valdobbiadene - Prosecco» wine, rendered sparkling or semi-sparkling through the traditional methods in use in the territory specified in the preceding paragraph.

3. TRADITIONAL PROCESSES.

When processing the sparkling wine specified in article 1, the traditional practice of improving the product with quantities not exceeding 15% of wines obtained from the vinification of Pinot Bianco, Pinot Grigio, Pinot Nero and Chardonnay grapes - alone or combined - is allowed, provided that: the grapes originate from vineyards entered in the appropriate register and located in the delimited area specified in letter c) of the first paragraph of article 3 hereinbefore; the Glera grapes used in the vinification process originate from a single-crop vineyard; in any case, the presence of grapes of lesser varieties, as specified in article 2, added to the Pinot and Chardonnay grapes, does not exceed the aforementioned 15% limit. For still products, the wine added in such traditional «improvement» processes shall, in any case, replace the same percentage of wine, as set out under article 1, which may be accepted as table wine.

4. GRAPE/WINE AND WINE/HECTARE YIELD.

The maximum must to fruit ratio shall not exceed 70% for all wine types. Should this ratio be above the aforementioned limit, but not above 75%, the quantity in excess is not entitled to the designation of origin. Above this limit, entitlement to the controlled designation of origin is forfeit for the whole batch.

Article 6.

Consumption characteristics

1. At the moment of release to the market, the «Conegliano Valdobbiadene - Prosecco» wines specified in article 1 shall meet the following characteristics:

«Conegliano Valdobbiadene - Prosecco»:

colour: more or less intense pale straw yellow;

bouquet: winy, characteristic with light fruity fragrance;

flavour: flavoursome and pleasantly bitterish;

minimum total alcoholic strength by volume: 10.50% vol;

minimum total acidity: 5.0 g/l;

minimum sugar-free extract: 14.0 g/l;

«Conegliano Valdobbiadene - Prosecco» frizzante:

colour: more or less intense pale straw yellow, bright, with obvious development of bubbles.

bouquet: pleasant and characteristically fruity;

flavour: fresh, well-balanced, agreeably effervescent, fruity;

minimum total alcoholic strength by volume: 10.50% vol;

minimum total acidity: 5.0 g/l;

minimum sugar-free extract: 14.0 g/l.

A slight haziness is possible in the type traditionally produced by fermentation in the bottle. In this case it is compulsory to put the indication «in-bottle secondary fermentation» on the label. The characteristics of the bouquet and flavour for said wine and the total minimum acidity are as follows:

bouquet: pleasant and characteristically fruity with possible hints of bread crust and yeast;

flavour: fresh, well-balanced, agreeably effervescent, fruity with possible hints of bread crust and yeast;

minimum total acidity: 4.0 g/l;

«Conegliano Valdobbiadene - Prosecco» spumante superiore:

colour: more or less intense pale straw yellow bright with persistent perlage;

bouquet: pleasant and characteristically fruity;

flavour: fresh, well-balanced, pleasantly fruity, characteristic

minimum total alcoholic strength by volume: 11.00% vol;

minimum total acidity: 5.0 g/l

minimum sugar-free extract: 14.0 g/l;

«Conegliano Valdobbiadene» Superiore di Cartizze or «Valdobbiadene» Superiore di Cartizze:

colour: more or less intense pale straw yellow, bright, with persistent perlage;

bouquet: pleasant and characteristically fruity;

flavour: fresh, well-balanced, pleasantly fruity, characteristic;

minimum total alcoholic strength by volume: 11.50% vol;

minimum total acidity: 5.0 g/l;

minimum sugar-free extract: 14.0 g/l.

The Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies has the authority to issue a decree to change the limits of minimum total acidity and minimum sugar-free extract.

Article 7.

Labelling

1. Only on the labels of DOCG «Conegliano Valdobbiadene - Prosecco» sparkling wine may reference to the designation «Prosecco» and to the term «superiore» be omitted.

2. The designation and presentation of sparkling wines produced in the delimited subareas specified under article 3 shall have the following wording on the label: «Conegliano Valdobbiadene» Superiore di Cartizze or more simply «Valdobbiadene» Superiore di Cartizze.

3. In the designation and presentation of the wine types specified under article 1, the addition of any description other than those listed in this specification, including the adjectives «extra», «fine», «choice», «selected» and such, is forbidden.

Reference to names, corporate names and private brand names, provided they have no laudatory meaning and are not likely to mislead the customer, is however allowed.

4. Optional references or terms contemplated under EC regulations are allowed, as are traditional references or terms, provided they are relevant to the wines specified under article 1.

5. In the designation of the sparkling wine, use of the term vintage is allowed, provided the product is obtained with at least 85% of the wine of the reference vintage, which shall be shown on the label.

6. In the designation and presentation of the sparkling wine, reference to the municipalities or administrative divisions, as listed in Enclosure A, is allowed, provided that the name of the municipality or administrative division from which the grapes originated is followed by the term «Rive» and that said references are entered in the register of vineyards. It is compulsory to put the vintage date on the label.

7. On the labels, the designation «Prosecco» shall follow the name of the designation «Conegliano Valdobbiadene» or «Conegliano» or «Valdobbiadene» and shall have a font of the same size or smaller.

The term «Rive», followed by the name of the municipality or administrative division, and «superiore» as well as references to «vintage», shall feature in fonts whose size is no greater than two-thirds that of the name of the designation «Conegliano Valdobbiadene» or «Conegliano» or «Valdobbiadene».

8. The registered and guaranteed designation of origin «Conegliano Valdobbiadene - Prosecco» is exclusively and obligatorily distinguished by a collective mark whose size and dimension are established in the User's Guide, as set out in Annex B of this specification.

Such mark is always included in the neck sticker replacing the government seal.

All wine-makers entered in the register of wine bottlers are also entitled to apply the mark, distributed solely by the regulatory body (Consorzio di tutela), separately on the bottles.

Use of the mark is supervised directly by the regulatory body (Consorzio di tutela), which shall distribute it to all the wine bottling and packaging operators who apply for the same, on the same economic terms and conditions of use reserved for its associates.

Article 8.

Packaging

1. The Registered and guaranteed designation of origin «ConeglianoValdobbiadene - Prosecco» wines shall be released to the market, as specified under national and EC regulations, in the traditional glass containers for the area.

2. Nominal volumes, form and colour. The Registered and guaranteed designation of origin «ConeglianoValdobbiadene - Prosecco» wines may be marketed in glass containers of any capacity allowed by law.

Up to 5 litres, the only containers allowed are glass bottles of colour and form traditionally used in the area, which may be of different shades of white, yellow, green, brown or grey-black. In addition, upon request by the operators concerned or by the Regulatory body, with specific authorisation of the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies, the use of traditional containers with a capacity of 6, 9, or more litres is allowed on occasions of particular trade exhibitions or promotional events.

3. Closing devices. For the still wines, cork stoppers flush with the rim of the bottle are allowed.

For the semi-sparkling wines the aforementioned stopper is allowed, as is the mushroom-shaped cork stopper; the cylindrical cork stopper may also be held in place with the traditional string.

For the sparkling type, the bottles shall be closed with mushroom-shaped cork stoppers, marked with the designation name; for bottles containing up to 0.200 litres, a screw cap with a mushroom-shaped plastic overcap is allowed.

Article 9

Link with the geographical environment

a) Specific characteristics of the geographical area

Natural factors

The morphology of the production area of DOCG Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco is formed of a series of "graded" hills, defined as a "hogback" system, facing north-south in the southernmost part and east-west in the northern part. These hills are separated by a series of valleys along which small rivers run.

The area to the north rests on the Pre-Alpine chain, which acts as a natural barrier to entry of cold currents, while to the south the area benefits from the mild temperatures of the Venice Lagoon, which is around 40 km away. The east-west layout of the hilly lands, the considerable gradient and the consequent south-facing position of the vineyards allows maximum exposure to the sun, creating an ideal area for growing the white grapes used to make Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco.

The soil in the area originates from raising of the sea beds and has subsequently been altered by the action of glaciers and rivers.

The land is mainly formed of sandstone and marl, alternating with moraine and alluvial layers.

This favours the constant drainage of water.

The climate in the Conegliano Valdobbiadene area is temperate, with clearly outlined seasons, characterised by a night-time thermal inversion which allows, in the period when the grapes are ripening, a considerable thermal excursion between night and day, thanks to the descent along the slopes of the hills of cool air from the Pre-Alps.

The frequent rains during the summer months guarantee the right amount of water for the Glera vine, which is sensitive both to water stagnation and to drought. This unusual condition is possible due to the steepness of the hills and the shallowness of the soil explorable by the roots of the vines. There is a small sub-zone called Cartizze in the heart of the Designation area, covering just 100 ha, where the land has an unusual gradient and south-facing exposure which creates a sort of natural amphitheatre, highly appreciated in terms of quality and landscape. The large variability of the soil and the climate of the designation area is expressed by the local mention of "Rive", which highlights the unusual vocation of the various locations in the production zone.

Historical factors

The hilly area of Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco has an extremely ancient vine growing tradition, the first written evidence of which dates to the tombstones of the Roman colonies. As early as the end of the VI

Century, the bishop of Poitier, Venanzio Fortunato, who was born in Valdobbiadene, referred to the hills of his birth as “the land on which the vine blossoms eternally beneath the bare summit where the shady green protects and revitalises.”

Subsequently, the vocation for production of white wines in the Conegliano Valdobbiadene area is confirmed by numerous documents, starting with the “Conegliano Statutes” of 1282, and those of the period of domination of the Republic of Venice, and the testimonies of appreciation for the “white wine of the hills of Conegliano Valdobbiadene” of the English, Hapsburg and Polish monarchs of subsequent centuries.

The first written citation of growing of Prosecco grapes on the hills of Conegliano Valdobbiadene is the work of a local nobleman, Francesco Maria Malvolti, who, in the VIII edition of the *Giornale d’Italia* in 1772, spoke of vine growing in this area. From this period onwards, the citations and the fame of Prosecco would spread throughout the district of Conegliano Valdobbiadene, to the extent that, towards the middle of the 19th Century, it would start to be grown in purity. Important in this sense are the citations of two scholars, Count Balbi Valier, selector of the biotype called Prosecco Balbi “with round grapes and a delicate taste and flavour, tending towards the aromatic”, still widely appreciated and grown through the area, and the historian Semenzi, who wrote “... exquisite white wines are Verdisa, Prosecco and Bianchetta”, vines which are still grown in Conegliano Valdobbiadene. Tangible application of the vine growing and wine making tradition of this territory and the scientific culture began in 1876 with opening in Conegliano of the first Vine Growing and Oenology School of Italy, which led to development, in 1923, of the first Experimental Vine Growing and Oenology Station, which is still a point of reference for research and experimentation on vine growing for the Italian Agriculture Ministry.

In 1962, the producers decided to protect the territory and the wine by creating the Protection Consortium to define the production regulations. This allowed them to obtain the recognition of Controlled Designation of Origin (DOC) for “Prosecco dei Colli di Conegliano Valdobbiadene” from the Agriculture Ministry in 1969.

The first Italian Wine Route was created in 1966, confirming the production tradition and the renown and beauty of this territory.

The particular value of Conegliano Valdobbiadene was recognised by the Veneto Regional Authority in 2003, with creation of the first Italian sparkling wine district, also certifying the national importance of the designation in economic terms.

In 2009, due to continual improvement in the quality and the renown achieved over 40 years of national and international success, the Conegliano Valdobbiadene Designation was recognised by the Ministry of Agricultural Food and Forestry Policies as a Controlled and Guaranteed Designation of Origin (DOCG) product, placing this territory at the top of the Prosecco Designation in terms of quality. In 2010, the Agriculture Ministry and the Heritage Ministry inserted the Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco area on the Priority List of Italian candidates for recognition as a Unesco World Heritage Site.

Human factors

The area where the vines used to make Conegliano Valdobbiadene wine are grown is formed of steep hills, with gradients which have been modelled, over the centuries, by human hands and ingenuity. Vineyard operations are performed mainly by hand, since the steep gradients of the land only allow partial use of agricultural machinery. The traditional term “Rive” distinguishes the vines located in the individual towns or hamlets: here, the obligatory manual harvesting allows the integrity of the grape skins to be maintained, which is vital for conservation and subsequent transfer of the aromas into the sparkling wines. The crops are grown in lines using “contour ploughing”, a choice made over the centuries by the vine growers to maintain the fertility of the soil and limit the erosion caused by the gradients. Human efforts over the millennia have created and preserved a landscape of rare beauty: vineyards which are draped around the hillsides alternating with the autochthonous trees and bushes contribute to increasing the natural biodiversity, creating one of Italy’s most singular vine growing areas.

The experience of the vine growers has characterised the Designation over the centuries: the ampelographic base formed of selection and conservation of ancient autochthonous vines, grown in the area since 1500 (Bianchetta, Verdiso, Perera) is used by producers to create the cuvee to send for the sparkling production process. Another historical

and traditional practice is use of small percentages of Pinot and Chardonnay in production of the sparkling wine.

The sparkling process, which is performed in an autoclave with the Martinotti method, was perfected and sanctioned in the second half of the Twentieth Century in Conegliano by Prof. De Rosa, allowing the specific characteristics of the sparkling wine from this area to be intensified.

Conegliano has always been a seat of research and, in addition to the ancient Oenology School and the Vine Growing Research Centre, there is also a university offering degrees in vine growing and oenology, structures which allow the huge human and scientific heritage developed over the centuries in this territory to be handed down to future generations.

b) Specific characteristics of the product

The Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco wine is produced using one main vine, the Glera, and with other minor vines, called Verdiso, Bianchetta, Perera and long Glera, of which a maximum 15% is added to it.

The combination of these ancient varieties grown in the area obtains a white wine which is straw-yellow with greenish reflections, pleasantly aromatic and full-bodied.

The Glera is a vigorous vine which, over the centuries, has found the perfect environmental conditions on the hills of the Designation area for a good accumulation of sugars and simultaneous conservation of the malic acidity and aromatic substances.

90% of Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco wine is prepared in the sparkling version.

It is characterised by a slightly aromatic bouquet, with fruity and floral notes, of white fruit, wild flowers and acacia.

It has a dry, balanced and mineral flavour, highly acidic, and is produced in the Brut, Extra Dry and Dry versions, which are distinguished by their sugar residue.

The Brut version is characterised by the fresh and fruity bouquet, with hints of citrus fruit.

The Extra Dry version is the traditional version, which combines the aroma with a full body. Fresh, elegant and full of the fragrances of flowers and white fruit, it is gentle on the palate but also dry.

The Dry version is characterised by a stronger aroma, more complex bouquet and a stronger taste.

The Rive version, produced exclusively with grapes from a single town or hamlet, highlights all the unusual characteristics of sparkling wine, obtained from the individual territories.

The area of Conegliano Valdobbiadene has a sub-zone which combines all the most typical characteristics of sparkling wine, called Cartizze. Full-bodied, with a balanced flavour, it has highly distinctive notes, a fruitiness reminiscent of apples and pears and a floral bouquet reminiscent of white flowers, wisteria and roses.

Conegliano Valdobbiadene is also produced in the sparkling version, with fermentation in an autoclave, fully expressing the liveliness and freshness of the product, followed by natural re-fermentation in the bottle; full-bodied and mineral to the taste, it is characterised by more mature bouquets and the light note of yeast.

The Tranquillo version is a local product known for being “easy on the palate” and the typical vinous notes of the vine.

c) Link of cause and effect between environment and product

The natural vocation for production of white wines has been a distinguishing trait of the Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco area over the centuries. As early as 1936, a soil study performed by the Experimental Institute of Conegliano identified the soil and climate characteristics of the Designation area and its vocation for the production of fruity, floral, full-bodied and dry white wines.

The “hogback” hill system assists the entry of light, constant drainage of water and the higher temperatures which allow the Prosecco, a variety with a low sugar content, to achieve the right balance between the sugar and the acid component.

The soil, formed of sandstone and marl, intermixed with conglomeratic and moraine rock, gives the grapes highly intense and delicate aromatic notes, as well as the minerality and full body typical of Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco.

The temperate climate and the major thermal excursions typical of these hills lead to accumulation of complex aromatic compounds in the grapes, which allows the characteristic vinous and floral notes to be obtained.

These factors also allow the fixed acidity to be maintained, particularly the malic fraction, which gives Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco a freshness and an acidity which is never aggressive.

The soil and climate factors of this hilly area, in fact, cause slow ripening of the grapes, allowing a more complete accumulation of the aromatic substances and a slower degradation of the acid component. The summer rainfall, which is significantly higher than in the remaining part of the province of Treviso, allows the Glera and the other minor varieties to vegetate in a more balanced manner and to create a foliage capable both of supporting the accumulation of glucidic and aromatic components and protecting the grapes in the summer from being burned by the sun, thus safeguarding the acid and aromatic fraction which characterises Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco.

Article 10

References to the control body

Valoritalia srl

Administration office: Via San Gaetano 74 – 36016 Thiene (Vicenza)

The company Valoritalia is the control body authorised by the Ministry of Agricultural Food and Forestry Policies, pursuant to legislative decree no. 61/2010, which performs the annual check on compliance with the requirements of these regulations, in accordance with article 25, paragraph 1, first sentence, letters a) and c), and article 26 of Regulation EC no. 207/2009, for products granted PDO status, through a systematic method of controls across the entire production chain (vine growing, processing, packaging), in accordance with said article 25, paragraph 1, second sentence, letter c).

In particular, said check is performed according to a pre-established control plan, approved by the Ministry, corresponding with the model approved by the Ministerial Decree of 2 November 2010, published in Official Gazette no. 271 dated 19-11-2010.

ENCLOSURE A

LIST OF MUNICIPALITIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS THAT ACCOMPANY THE TERM «RIVE»

List of Municipalities:

1. CISON DI VALMARINO
2. COLLE UMBERTO
3. FARRA DI SOLIGO
4. FOLLINA
5. MIANE
6. PIEVE DI SOLIGO
7. REFRONTOLO
8. SAN PIETRO DI FELETTO
9. SAN VENDEMIANO
10. SUSEGANA
11. TARZO
12. VIDOR

List of Admin- istrative Divisions:

1. Arfanta
2. Bagnolo
3. Barbisano
4. Bigolino
5. Campea
6. Carpesica
7. Col San Martino
8. Colbertaldo
9. Colfosco
10. Collalto
11. Combai
12. Corbanese
13. Cozzuolo
14. Farrò
15. Formeniga
16. Guia
17. Manzana
18. Ogliano
19. Premaor
20. Resera
21. Rolle
22. Rua
23. San Giovanni
24. San Michele
25. San Pietro di Barbozza
26. San Vito
27. Santa Maria
28. Santo Stefano
29. Scomigo
30. Solighetto
31. Soligo

Annex B
Index No. 46915/24772

CONSORTIUM BY LAWS

Consorzio Tutela del Vino Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco

Art. 1 - Incorporation

The voluntary Consortium named "Consorzio Tutela del Vino Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco" (Consortium for the Protection of "Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco" Wines) was originally incorporated in Treviso at the headquarters of the Chamber of Commerce on 7 June 1962 by deed of the notary Dr Leandro Biadene, registered in Treviso on 26 June 1962, No. 4503 Volume 208, Vol. No. 6459, File No. 12042, with the name of "Consorzio del Vino Prosecco dei Colli di Conegliano e Valdobbiadene"; the articles of association were subsequently amended in the General Meetings of: 21 February 1973 in Solighetto, by notarial deed drawn up by Enrico Sartorio, Index No. 46309, Registered in Conegliano on 13 March 1973 with No. 1141, mod. I vol. 140; 10 February 1984 in Solighetto, by notarial deed drawn up by Alberto Sartorio, Index No. 1092, registered in Treviso on 1 March 1984 with No. 2133; 10 December 1986 in Solighetto, by notarial deed drawn up by the notary Alberto Sartorio, Index No. 3679, registered in Treviso on 19 December 1986, with No. 10025; 2 December 1993 in Solighetto, by notarial deed drawn up by the notary Alberto Sartorio, Index No. 12926, registered in Conegliano on 21 December 1993, with No. 1825 series 1; 12 May 2001 in Solighetto, by notarial deed drawn up by the notary Alberto Sartorio, registered in Conegliano on 29 May 2001, with No. 1016 series 1.

These articles of association derive from the original version and from versions subsequently modified in compliance with the current legislation and are amended in accordance with Legislative Decree No. 61/10 and Ministerial Decree of 16 December 2010 (Incorporation and operation of Consortiums), in order to comply with the provisions of the aforesaid legislation regarding the regulation of PDO and IGP wines and protection consortiums.

Subsequent to the ministerial recognition under article 17, paragraphs 1 and 4 of Legislative Decree 61/2010, the Consortium takes on the qualification of inter-professional organisation as per article 125/sexdecies, § 1 letter b) of EC Regulation 1234/2007.

If authorised according to art. 17, paragraph 4 of Leg. Decree No. 61/2010, it performs the functions of protection, promotion, development, consumer information and looks after the interests of the protected designation, as well as the activities referred to in paragraph 4, relating to all producers with the same designation, even those not belonging to the consortium.

The maintaining of the "erga omnes" recognition and authorisation is subject to demonstration of the compliance with the requirements of representativeness, according to Ministerial Decree No. 7422 of 12 May 2010 and subsequent amendments.

This is also governed by these articles of association, by any internal

rules and subsequent amendments, additions or replacements.

Art. 2 - Duration and registered office

The duration of the Consortium shall be until 31 December 2050.

The Consortium has its registered office in Pieve di Soligo (Treviso).

The Governing Body may open and close offices, branches, and agencies, as well as representative offices, both in Italy and abroad.

Art. 3 - Purposes and duties

The "Consorzio tutela del Vino Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco" is a non-profit organisation established by the professional categories involved in the protected designation.

1) The main purpose and primary objective of the Consortium is:

a. the protection, promotion, development, supervision and care of the interests relating to the "Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco" Designation, as provided for by article 17, paragraph 1 of Leg. Decree 61/2010 and subsequent amendments, and may deal with the protection, promotion, development, supervision and general care of the interests relating to the IG (Geographic Indication) and other fine wines produced in the territory of competence;

and also:

2) If recognised in accordance with article 17, paragraph 1 of Leg. Decree No. 61/2010, the Consortium has the purpose of:

a. putting forward regulatory proposals and performing advisory tasks relating to the DOP (Protected Designation of Origin) and IGP (Protected Geographical Indication) labels;

b. providing technical assistance, information and studies on the economic-cyclical evaluation of the DOP or IGP labels, as well as any other activity aimed at enhancing the techniques and image of the product;

c. collaborating, according to the guidelines issued by the Ministry, in the protection and defence of the DOP or IGP labels against abuse, unfair competition, counterfeiting, improper use of the protected designations and, however, any illegal behaviour; collaborating also with the regions and provinces to perform the relevant activities;

d. protecting, promoting, enhancing and providing information to consumers, and taking care of their interests relating to the designation, as well as supervising the sale of products in collaboration with the Central Inspectorate for the Protection of the Quality and Fraud Repression of Agri-food Products, and in agreement with the regions and autonomous provinces.

3) If recognised in accordance with article 17, paragraph 4 of Leg. Decree No. 61/2010, as well as performing the activities referred to in points a), b) and c) above, the Consortium shall also perform the activities referred to in point d) regarding all entities enrolled in the control system, even if they are not members of the consortium.

The Consortium also performs all the activities and tasks assigned to it by national and community law, and in particular:

- organises and coordinates the activities of the categories of producers, grapes, wine and bottles of the Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco designation, within their specific competences, in order to protect and enhance the designation itself;

- defines, after consulting with the representatives of the relevant category, the implementation of the governing policies of the offer in order to safeguard and protect the quality of the product, and to contribute to a better coordination of the marketing of the protected designation, and also defines plans to improve the quality of the product;
- performs any activity aimed at evaluating the economic and financial aspects of the different products with the relevant designation of origin, collaborating with the government and control bodies for obtaining the necessary information;
- coordinates the adaptation of the production guidelines to new or more updated requirements relating to technology, image, presentation and consumption, and makes the relative official requests to the bodies in charge;
- proposes, protects and manages the regulations and standards required at a regional/national/community level, as regards the grapes, musts, wines and wine by-products obtained locally and bearing the "Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco" designation, with particular attention to the study and research of the wine-growing area and to the vineyards, protecting the territory and monitoring - even in terms of urban planning - the most important areas designated for the possible development of new vineyards;
- sets up and coordinates, as promoter and manager, activities and actions aimed at developing and enhancing the local rural district, cultural itineraries, and wine and food tourism provided for by regional, national and community laws and regulations.

4) in particular, for example, it has the task of:

- performing, in accordance with the MIPAAF guidelines, legal/juridical/administrative activities in order to safeguard the protected designation from plagiarism, unfair competition, usurpation and other national and international crimes, and also to promote all appropriate action in civil, criminal and administrative proceedings;
- taking care of technical, business and image training, providing technical and professional assistance to companies and producers, including the provision of general services relating to the presentation and description of designation products, overseeing the creation of proprietary publishing tools of a technical and informative nature with the relative copyrights;
- collaborating with public and private bodies, organisations and associations, institutions and schools to promote and implement initiatives aimed at the enhancement, food education and correct and responsible consumption of the protected products, and also to organise training, professional and educational courses;
- providing logistical and organisational support for events dedicated to promoting and enhancing the relevant designations.

Following an agreement on the methods and procedures of the service and reimbursement of expenses, the Consortium may allow other Protection Consortiums to use their administrative structures, guaranteeing the autonomy required by art. 17, paragraph 2 of Leg. Decree No. 61/10.

As activities that are instrumental and functional to the aforesaid

purposes, the Consortium can:

- enter into conventions and agreements with public and/or private bodies; participate in exhibitions, conferences, fairs, workshops, demonstrations in Italy and abroad; participate in and become members of other bodies or organisations of any nature, with similar or complementary objectives, and also take part in initiatives in collaboration with public and private bodies;
- perform activities for the presentation and promotion of the designations referred to in article 1 inside workshops and events dedicated to the enhancement of food and wine products produced inside and outside the Veneto region;
- take over the management of public and private facilities for the dissemination of wines with protected designation, participating in the relative competitions for access and assuming their respective obligations;
- promote synergies in the presentation of the image of the wines referred to in article 1 and of agri-food products typical of the Veneto region, in combination with these wines.

Since its foundation, the Consortium has adopted its own trademark, which in 2009 was included in the production specifications as a logo of the Designation. In implementing the provisions of art.17, paragraph 4 of Legislative Decree No. 61/10, this trademark shall be used, strictly in combination with the designation, by all users of the DOCG Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco.

The Consortium owns other collective Trademarks and the Board of Directors may propose other trademarks in the future to distinguish the protected designations.

The Consortium Trademarks, even different ones, may also be used to distinguish the promotional items and other local products and services.

5) In addition, the Consortium can organise and manage, in accordance with the procedures and possibilities allowed by Legislative Decree No. 61/10 and implementing decrees, technical activities aimed at monitoring the products bearing the protected designations.

More specifically, these activities can involve:

- collaborating with the Central Inspectorate for the Protection of the Quality and Fraud Repression of the Agri-food Products, in conjunction with the Veneto region, aimed at developing and implementing the monitoring program;
- employing their own supervisors or in agreement with other consortiums, also in other sectors, for the monitoring activities and for the sampling of wines with protected designations of origin, mainly during the selling phase;
- among its various duties, the Consortium, as set forth in MD 16.12.2010, will submit its products to chemical and organoleptic analysis, taken mainly during the selling phase, in order to carry out the required surveillance activities and to verify their compliance with the production specifications.

6) The Consortium, if authorised under article 17, paragraph 4 of Legislative Decree No. 61/10, shall perform the functions and activities referred to in paragraph 4 on behalf of all the entities enrolled in the

control system of the relevant designations, even if non-members. The costs arising from the activities referred to in paragraph 4 are charged to all those enrolled in the control system, in the form of contributions intended as rates applicable to each member and to other taxable wine growers, winemakers and bottlers, based on the amount of the designated product (grapes, declared wine, bottled wine) subjected to the control system in the grape-harvesting campaign immediately preceding the year in which the costs are allocated. The aforesaid contributions must be entered into separate accounts of the financial statements (art. 9 of MD 16.12.2010 for the Incorporation and Operation of Protection Consortiums).

In accordance with paragraph 4 of article 17, the Consortium may request new users of the designation, upon their enrolment into the control system, including those who do not intend to become members, for a start-up fee in accordance with Law No. 201 of 22 December 2008, according to the criteria and methods established by the MIPAAF.

Art. 4 - Admission requirements and methods

Users of the Designation of Origin protected by the Consortium, subjected to the control system referred to in Legislative Decree No. 61/2010, who perform one or more production activities (wine grower and/or winemaker and/or bottler) can be members of the Consortium, namely:

- a) farmers, individuals or associations that perform one or more of the aforesaid production activities;
- b) traders and cooperative wineries that make the wine and bottle the wine;
- c) all those engaged in the bottling of the protected wine.

Cooperatives of wine growers or producer's associations are defined as the associative facility or body having access to the grapes owned by wine growers and/or grapes coming from conferring operators, whether partially or totally.

The participation of these companies, if supported by the specific delegations of each single company, involves automatic admission to the Consortium of the conferring members - if they are not already a member or do not request membership on an individual basis - who are therefore considered "wine growers".

Wine growers belonging to the cooperatives become members of the consortium through the conferring body represented by its legal representative.

Wine growers conferring part or all of their grapes can join the Consortium and exercise their rights, in place of the cooperative, for the amount of grapes conferred; for grapes used directly, they will also represent the company activities for the quantity of wine obtained directly and eventually bottled.

The cooperative winery or producers' association that performs the wine-making and/or bottling activities becomes a member of the Consortium according to the amount of grapes, must and wine processed and eventually bottled.

Admission to the Consortium is guaranteed to all those involved in the designation and must be requested by a written application containing:

- 1) the exact designation or business name of the company and details of

its legal representatives;

2) indication of the registered office and the places where the agricultural or commercial activities are performed;

3) details of the registration into the Business Register: Special farmers' section for producers, Ordinary section for non-farmers;

4) for wine growers and relative associations, details of the registration, as well as the surfaces registered in the relative Vineyard Register of Veneto for the "Conegliano-Valdobbiadene Prosecco" Designation;

5) indication of the production activities that are performed in compliance with the permits required by law;

6) declaration of knowing these articles of association and of fulfilling the obligations contained in them, and complying with the resolutions legally adopted by the governing bodies, as well as any other applicable regulation.

If the vineyards result to be jointly managed by more than one person, the managers must designate, at the time of presenting the request for admission, the person who will represent them within the Consortium.

When applying for membership, the cooperatives and associations must also submit a list of their conferrers and/or members divided by the activity performed and by the category they belong to, indicating the registration details and production details useful for defining the representativeness of the consortium. The Board of Directors, upon verifying that the requirements have been met, decide on the application within two months of submission.

The rejection of the application may be appealed with the methods and terms indicated in article 22.

Art. 5 - Admission fee and annual fee

New members are required to pay a one-off admission fee when joining the Consortium.

1) The amount of the fee, to be determined by the Board of Directors even diversified by the different categories, should be acceptable to the applicants and, in any case, not more than twice the expected annual fee;

2) The fee will be calculated in relation to the grapes declared and/or wine bottled, as registered with the services or the designated control facilities. In compliance with the regulations, newly formed companies - wine growers' category - shall assume the maximum quantity obtainable in relation to the vineyards owned or managed; for winemakers and bottlers, the reference data will be declared by the new member, subject to verification of the Consortium at the first useful campaign and if necessary, suitably adapted.

3) If a member, after being admitted to the Consortium, extends its activities to categories other than those for which it paid an admission fee, said member shall supplement this rate with an additional payment relating to the new sphere of activity.

4) In the event of transfer of property by way of inheritance, or asset division, or transfer of the member company between spouses or relatives up to the 3rd degree, even in the event of a simple change in the legal nature of the member, no admission fee will be due by the new owners, who, nevertheless, should notify the Consortium of the new status and

name within 120 days.

These rules also apply to company mergers if the resulting entities are already members of the Consortium for the same designations, and also to company demergers that remain separated and to the same designations within the Consortium.

Membership will be suspended for the entire duration of the contract to consortiums that lease their company. A managing company will have to apply for admission as a new member and pay the relative admission fee. At the end of the lease, the owner of the leased company will regain the qualification of consortium member without paying a new admission fee. Cooperatives and other associations treated as such will not pay any admission fee for new members.

The admission fee shall be paid outright; it is non-transferable, cannot be revalued and does not generate any right to the assets of the Consortium.

The Board of Directors, in exceptional cases, with adequate reasons and with tangible benefits to the protected Designation of Origin, may exclude from the payment of the admission fee some entities or entire categories of entities.

Membership in the Consortium is certified by registration into the relative company books, divided among the different reference categories. Any subsequent change must be promptly notified.

Annual fee

For the purposes of paying the periodic contributions, the product must be proportioned based on the declarations presented in the harvest campaign immediately preceding admission, submitted by the producer or bodies in charge and the assigned supervisory body, in relation to the protected Designation:

- for grape producers, based on the declarations relating to grapes for the previous year;
- for winemakers, based on the declarations of wine with Designation of Origin made in the previous year;
- for bottlers, based on the number of certified bottles, equal to 0.75 litre.

1) To calculate the annual fee, the base fee is applied to the sum of the account units identified according to the following proportions:

- a) for grape producers, one account unit for every 100 quintals of grapes or fractions thereof;
- b) for winemakers, one account unit for every 70 hectolitres or fractions thereof;
- c) for bottlers, one account unit for every 5,000 bottles or fractions thereof.

2) The annual fee consists of:

- I - contribution relating to the enhancement activity;
- II - contribution relating to the Protection and Surveillance activity;
- III - contribution relating to the member services.

Parties enrolled in the control system, who are not members of the Consortium, are required to only pay the contributions referred to in points I and II relating to the "erga omnes" functions.

If the Consortium is assigned the functions referred to in paragraph 4 of

article 17 of Legislative Decree No. 61/2010, the member is entitled to a reduction in the annual fee equal to the full amount of the contribution rate, which must be paid in accordance with the relative ministerial decree.

The sum of the account units held by each member for the various categories will be multiplied by the contribution per unit, identified based on the total product obtained in the harvest campaign immediately prior to the general meeting.

The calculation of the account units due to each member and the amount of the contribution per unit must be approved by the Board of Directors within March of each year, and will be valid for the Meetings to be held within the following twelve months.

In the case of wine growers' cooperatives or associations of producers or wineries, the annual fee is proportional to the amount of product declared by the collective body.

In order to calculate the contribution per unit, the product obtained for each campaign must be divided based on the harvest and/or production declarations submitted for all the protected designations in the immediately preceding harvest campaign (or in the last campaign for which the data is known), as resulting from the data made available by the services or by the supervisory body in charge.

3) Payment of any extraordinary contributions resolved by the General Meeting, even if attributable to single categories or subcategories of members, according to the criteria of proportionality, in anticipation of costs mainly directed to these categories and to any extraordinary measures for the promotion or protection of the product.

Art. 6 - Obligations and rights of consortium members

Members are obliged to:

- a) comply with the articles of association and the resolutions legitimately adopted by the Consortium, as well as any internal rules or regulations;
- b) pay the annual fee in proportion to the amount of product obtained and according to the methods defined by the Board of Directors;
- e) participate in all the controls performed by the Consortium in order to verify the proper fulfilment of their obligations;
- d) participate in the activities of the Consortium and the meetings validly convened only if they have paid all the contributions due;
- e) inform the Consortium of any loss of the essential requirements for the admission and/or permanence in the Consortium;
- f) for the purposes of determining the representativeness in the Consortium, the cooperative or association of producers or wineries are required to report annually and however no later than February of each year, in addition to the quantity of grapes processed, the names of each grape producer belonging to the consortium and the qualification of the conferrer of all or part of the grapes, as well as the areas under the vines;
- g) in cases where the acquisition is impossible through the competent official bodies, members must submit to the Consortium, upon its specific request, copies of the reports and communications provided for by the current legislation;

h) agree to be part of the Consortium for a 3-year period which is automatically renewed. The Consortium member may leave at any time by notifying the Board of Directors by registered mail. The withdrawal will take effect between the parties at the end of the current year. In the event that the withdrawal occurs in the first three years of membership, the member will have to pay 75% of the three-year contributions, calculated on the last rate due; this is to protect the multi-year commitments of the operating programs implemented and to meet the fixed costs necessary for performing the Consortium's activities.

Art. 7 - Sanctions and penalties

The Consortium binds its members to correct behaviour aimed at augmenting and enhancing the image and prestige of the protected designation.

Depending on the seriousness of the offence, the Board of Directors may impose the following sanctions on members who do not comply with these articles of association, the internal rules and resolutions of the Board:

- a) censure with warning;
- b) fines up to a maximum of three times the annual fee in force at the time of the violation;
- c) expulsion from the Consortium.

No action can however be taken if the party concerned has not been requested, via registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt, to regularise their position within a reasonable time or to send explanations or justifications, if deemed appropriate.

The above actions must be communicated to the parties concerned within fifteen days of the resolution by registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt.

The party concerned can appeal against the sanctions by recourse to the Appeals Board according to the methods and terms provided for by article 22.

The recourse does not suspend the penalty, but the Appeals Board, convened without delay by the Chairman of the Consortium, may order the suspension for serious and justified reasons.

The Board, after hearing the party who lodged the appeal and acquiring any relevant information, makes a ruling with a reasoned decision.

The decisions of the Appeals Board may be appealed by the member in the cases and with the procedures set forth in article 22, which provides for recourse to an Arbitration Board that will pass judgement in the form of a ritual arbitration pursuant to article 2, letter h of Ministerial Decree of 16 December 2010 (Incorporation and Operation of Protection Consortiums).

If the Consortium has been delegated to manage and distribute neck labels in replacement of the government marks, the companies that have not paid for these within the established times, may obtain further supplies of the neck labels only at the time of payment.

Art. 8 - Loss of the status of consortium member

The loss of the status of consortium member can occur by withdrawal, revocation or exclusion.

In all cases of termination of the membership, members must fulfil all the financial obligations assumed or pending, even if the relationship is terminated during the financial year.

Art. 9 - Withdrawal

The obligations of members towards the Consortium have the same duration. However, they may end before the expiry of the Consortium when:

- a) the member has ceased to perform their activities;
- b) in the event of resignation or dismissal;
- c) in other cases provided by law.

The request for resignation must be sent by registered letter to the Board of Directors by the 30th of June each year, and takes effect between the parties at the end of the year, except for what is set forth in the last paragraph of article 6.

Art. 10 - Revocation

The right to belong to the Consortium is lost when Members:

- a) lose one of the essential requirements for admission to the Consortium;
- b) have transferred the possession or ownership of their company for whatever reason;
- c) find themselves in a situation of absolute conflict with the objectives of the Consortium.

Requests for succession, in the event of death of the owner or sale of the company, are treated according to the procedures and conditions set forth in article 5.

Art. 11 - Exclusion

Members can be excluded from the Consortium if:

- a) they have been convicted by final judgement for serious offences;
- b) they seriously breach any of the regulations of the consortium;
- c) have seriously or repeatedly violated these articles of association, internal regulations and board resolutions;
- d) for no justified reason, they do not pay the fees for over a year or debts to the Consortium for whatever reason;
- e) they perform activities in competition or conflict with the consortium's interests;
- f) in other cases provided by law or the regulations - the exclusion does not relieve members from their obligations and from administrative penalties and fines imposed also due to the exclusion.

The exclusion is decided by the Board of Directors and the relative action must be communicated to the parties concerned within fifteen days of the decision by registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt.

The party concerned may appeal the action by resorting to the Appeals Board and eventually to the Arbitration Board in the manner and terms set forth in article 22.

Art. 12 - Bodies

The bodies of the Consortium are:

- the Annual General Meeting of the Consortium members;
- the Board of Directors;
- the Chairman of the Consortium;
- the Board of Auditors;
- the Appeals Board.

Art. 13 - Ordinary and Extraordinary Meeting

The Ordinary General Meeting is responsible for:

- 1) determining the general direction of the Consortium's activities for

achieving the aims of the consortium;

2) deciding on the Financial Statements prepared by the Board of Directors according to the articles of association, and on the report of the activities performed during the financial year, as well as the budget proposed by the Board of Directors and relative contributions;

3) deciding, on a proposal by the Board, on the establishment and amount of the goodwill contribution pursuant to Law 201/2008;

4) electing the members of the Board of Directors, determining the amount of any payments due to them;

5) approving any regulations for the use of the trademark and any internal rules and regulations;

6) appointing the members of the Board of Auditors, chosen also from people outside the Consortium, and its Chairman, with at least one regular member and an alternate member entered in the register of auditors, determining the fee;

7) appoint the Appeals Board;

8) deciding on whether to become a member of welfare and protection organisations;

9) ratifying the decisions of the Board of Directors regarding the determination and application of the extraordinary contributions due to members;

10) changing the units of account as identified in point 1 of article 5;

11) deciding on all the topics submitted to them by the Board of Directors;

12) approving the proposals for changes to the production guidelines of the protected designation;

13) approving the proposals for new DOC or DOCG labels whose production zone includes all or part of the territories defined by the protected designation;

An extraordinary meeting is a meeting convened by a decision of the Board of Directors to decide on:

a) changes to be made to these articles of association;

b) dissolution of the Consortium and extension of its duration;

c) liquidation of the Consortium and relative appointments, powers and fees of the liquidators and devolution of the assets.

Art. 14 - Convening of the General Meeting

The General Meeting is convened at least once a year within 120 days after the close of the financial year, and can be called in both an ordinary and extraordinary manner by the Board of Directors as many times as deemed appropriate or on the request of at least one-fifth of the consortium members.

The General Meeting is called by letter, fax or email to be sent to each member at the address entered in the book of consortium members at least ten days before the date set for the meeting, which contains the agenda items.

In case of emergency and/or changes in the convocation, the notice of the general meeting can be sent by fax, email or telegram at least five days before the date set for the meeting.

The General Meeting, both ordinary and extraordinary, comprises the consortium members, except for those excluded and/or suspended, and is

attended by members of the Board of Auditors; it is chaired by the Chairman and in his absence, by the Vice-Chairman or by the most senior Board member.

The Chairman of the Meeting appoints the Secretary of the meeting, even among non-members.

The Chairman of the General Meeting declares the validity of the proxies and generally the right to attend the Meeting.

The ordinary general meeting is validly constituted on first call when at least half plus one of the voting rights of the entire consortium team are represented in accordance with article 15 and, on second call, whatever the number of voting rights represented.

The extraordinary meeting is validly constituted:

- on first call, when at least two-thirds of the voting rights entitled to the entire consortium team are represented and the relative resolutions are adopted with a favourable vote of at least half plus one of the voting rights of the entire consortium team;

- on second call, when at least a third of the voting rights entitled to the entire consortium team is represented and the relative resolutions are adopted by a majority of the votes expressed by the members present.

The second call, both the Ordinary and Extraordinary meeting, can take place at least 24 hours after the first call.

Minutes are drawn up for the meetings which are signed by the Chairman and the Secretary.

Art. 15 - Voting Methods

The meeting is attended by all members who have paid the contributions and have not been suspended or excluded.

The voting rights of each member are calculated based on the total amount of product declared for all the protected designations, in the harvest campaign immediately prior to the meeting, with the methods set forth in point 1 of article 5 for calculation of the annual fee. Each member is nonetheless entitled to at least one vote.

Each single member cannot hold proxies for more than 5 members.

Each consortium member is entitled to one vote weighted and cumulative in proportion to the amount of wine obtained and/or made and/or bottled, as resulting from the harvest and production declarations in the campaign immediately prior to the meeting.

A member's "total number of votes" therefore corresponds to the account units calculated for application of the annual fee (article 5).

Each procedure for calculating the "total number of votes" of each member will therefore correspond to the system provided for calculation of the annual fee.

Cooperatives can unitarily represent all their members who have issued a specific delegation, eligible product conferrers not present personally or present by proxy granted to other members.

The votes for the producers' category given to each cooperative winery are equal to the sum of votes that would be entitled to their conferring members represented at the meeting, who have issued a specific delegation, for eligible grapes, calculated with the methods set forth in point 1 of article 5 for calculation of the annual fee.

If the member simultaneously performs two or three production activities,

the vote is combined with the activities performed.

Art. 16 - Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is formed by a minimum of 11 to a maximum of 21 members elected by the Meeting from among the members.

The composition of the Board must include an equal representation of all the categories involved in the production cycle present in the Consortium, and the number of Directors is proportionally commensurate with the production level of each of them.

Wine experts or representatives of Public Administrations, who do not have voting rights, can participate in specific meetings of the Board of Administration.

The electing Meeting can only vote for the candidates specified in the electoral lists.

The outgoing Board of Directors appoints a special committee, which sees to preparing the lists, after hearing the categories and any member groups identifiable in sub-categories representing similar interests.

Each member can only elect members from their category and the preferences cannot exceed the number of two-thirds of the members who have been appointed to represent them in the board.

Legally incapacitated people, unqualified people, bankrupt people, or candidates representing companies not up to date with the membership fees, as well as those who have been convicted of crimes involving temporary disqualification from public offices or the inability to hold management positions, cannot be appointed Director, and, if appointed, shall lose their office.

Furthermore, people who take-up positions in organisations, bodies, associations or companies that pursue goals and policies not compatible with those pursued and implemented by the Consortium, cannot be appointed Director or Auditor of the Consortium, and if appointed, shall lose their office.

The loss and its effect must be put to the Appeals Board, set up in accordance with article 22 of these articles of association.

The correct classification of members in the three voting categories, based on the prevailing activity consistently performed by the producer, occurs as follows:

- 1) at the time of joining the Consortium, based on the declaration made in the application for admission;
- 2) in subsequent annual audits, based on the actual activity performed by the member in the three previous years, or alternatively, in shorter periods of their membership in the Consortium.

Any transfer of members from one category to another must be verified by the Board of Directors.

Wine growers: includes any members who manage vineyards from which they obtain most of the product protected by the Consortium, sold by them on the market, either as grapes or as wine or bottled products.

Winemakers: includes cooperatives that make and/or bottle wines protected by the Consortium, coming mainly from grapes produced by contributing members. It also includes those that primarily perform vinification activities of the grapes with protected designation.

Bottlers: includes members, other than those mentioned above, who bottle

and make the wines protected by the Consortium.

Candidates who have received the most votes are elected on a category basis; in the event of a parity of votes, the candidate with most seniority in the Board of Directors or who represents the most senior Member of the Consortium. If not enough votes are cast to cover the seats of the category, the order of the list in the election form is taken into consideration for any missing votes.

If an insufficient number of candidates are presented for one or more categories, the seats not covered are assigned by the Board of Directors. The results of the elections will be communicated to the corporate body within 30 days from the date of said elections.

The directors shall hold office for the period determined at the time of their appointment which, however, can never be more than three years, and they may be reappointed.

The Chairman cannot be reappointed for more than three consecutive terms. If one or more directors resign during their term in office, the Board of Directors shall co-opt new members belonging to the same category as the resigning director, to be submitted for approval at the next meeting. They will resign together with those still in office.

Members of the Board of Directors absent without a valid reason for four consecutive meetings shall lose their office.

Directors are not entitled to remuneration or compensation unless decided by the general meeting.

The Board is responsible, after hearing the opinion of the Board of Auditors, for determining the fee due to those members who are asked to perform specific tasks on behalf of the Consortium.

Art. 17 - Convening of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is convened by the Chairman of the Consortium, or in his absence, by one of the Vice-Chairmen, as often as they see fit, but at least four times a year or when a written request is made by at least one third of the directors or by the Board of Auditors.

The call notice with indication of the agenda items shall be made by letter or fax, to be sent at least five days prior to the meeting; in urgent cases, also by fax or telegram to be sent at least one day prior to the meeting.

The meetings, chaired by the Chairman or in his absence by one of the Vice-Chairmen, or in their absence by the most senior director, are validly constituted when a majority of the directors in office are present. Resolutions are passed by an absolute voting majority: in the event of a tie, the vote of the Chairman shall prevail.

Resolutions of the Board shall be recorded in a special book and the minutes will be signed by the Chairman and by the Secretary who, together, can release extracts. Unless otherwise decided by the Board, the minutes shall be approved at the opening of the subsequent meeting.

Meetings of the Board of Directors can also be held by conference call, video conference or other appropriate means, including electronically, provided that the following aspects are guaranteed: identification of the meeting place where at least the Chairman and Secretary of the meeting will be present; identification of the participants in the meeting; the possibility of those attending the meeting to take part in the discussion

of the agenda items, and also to view or receive documents and be able to transmit them.

The decisions of the Directors may also be adopted by written consultation or written consent, unless previously opposed by one or more directors. The decision shall be deemed adopted upon the consent and favourable vote of the majority of Directors in office, expressed with the signing of a single document (or more than one document containing the same text of the decision), to be sent to the company's registered office within the term set from time to time.

All documents relating to formulating the resolution of the Directors must be kept at the registered office and transcribed (or entered by extract) into the Minutes Book of the Board of Directors as soon as the fixed term expires.

Art. 18 - Powers of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is invested with the widest powers of ordinary and extraordinary administration.

In particular, by way of example, the Board:

- 1) elects, from among its members, a Chairman, establishing the necessary powers, two Vice-Chairmen and a Secretary, who can be selected from outside the Board, in which case the elected person has no voting rights; the Chairman must be elected by a qualified majority of votes cast, as set forth in point a) of the subsequent paragraph;
- 2) prepares the annual financial statements and the accompanying informative report; and also prepares, within the terms and methods provided by law, and lodges, the annual financial statement under article 2615-bis of the Italian Civil Code;
- 3) prepares the draft budget, also relating to the determination and allocation of the fees and contributions, including the costs coming from the performance of the functions *erga omnes* as set forth in article 17 paragraph 4 of Legislative Decree 61/10;
- 4) decides on the applications for admission to the Consortium in accordance with article 4 of these articles of association;
- 5) fixes the admission fee of the Consortium, pursuant to article 5, establishing, if necessary, the portion to be allocated to the Consortium Fund;
- 6) fixes the measure of the annual contributions, as provided for by article 5;
- 7) proposes to the General Meeting, the institution and amount of the goodwill contribution in accordance with Law No. 201/2008, as permitted by art. 17, paragraph 5 of Legislative Decree 61/10;
- 8) appoints the technical structures of the board and fixes the fee;
- 9) oversees the fulfilment of the tasks set out in article 5 of Ministerial Decree 16.12.2010 (Incorporation and Operation of Protection Consortiums) and in particular, with regard to the surveillance activity, under the coordination of the Central Inspectorate for the Protection of the Quality and Fraud Repression, develops and implements the monitoring program, assuming or using monitoring agents even in agreement with public security agents.

The Board of Directors is also in charge of:

- a) appointing, in agreement with the Chairman and with an absolute voting

majority of the Directors in office:

- an Executive Committee, according to the methods referred to in article 20 of these articles of association, specifying the relative responsibilities and powers;
 - a Technical Committee, according to the methods referred to in article 20, specifying the relative responsibilities and powers;
 - a Promotional and Enhancement Committee, according to the methods referred to in article 20, specifying the relative responsibilities and powers;
 - one or more Designation Committees, specific for each Designation protected by the Consortium (excluding the Conegliano Valdobbiadene DOCG) to be appointed according to the current regulations;
 - a Committee for the sub-area of Superiore di Cartizze, to be appointed according to the current regulations;
 - a Director, establishing the relative powers, duties and fees.
- b) issuing occasional delegations to one or more of its members in agreement with the Chairman, determining their contents and the powers of delegation;
- c) assigning an indemnity to the Secretary of the Board, even if they are a board member, and attributing to them, where appropriate, specific tasks to ensure the regularity of the secretarial services and the instruction of the practices to be submitted to this Board for examination;
- d) establishing special advisory Commissions for the purpose of supporting and assisting the Chairman and structures in the analysis and discussion of important topics. The Board may call to become part of these Commissions even people who do not belong to the Consortium, based on their special training and expertise; the Board will determine the relative fees for the members of these Commissions;
- e) arranging for the adoption of one or more regulations to be approved by the General Meeting, for governing the supervision and control over the members' activities relating to the use of the consortium trademarks, assessment of the violations, and anything else necessary or only deemed appropriate for the execution of these articles of association;
- f) inviting wine experts or representatives of government bodies without voting rights to specific board meetings.

Board Members may be entitled to reimbursement of the expenses incurred while performing their duties.

Art. 19 - Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, and Honorary Chairman of the Consortium

The Chairman:

- 1) has the legal representation of the Consortium, even in court, and signs all deeds and documents, putting his name before the company name;
- 2) has the power to appoint lawyers and attorneys in active and passive disputes concerning the Consortium, before ordinary courts or administrative courts, in any degree of jurisdiction;
- 3) provides authorisations for the collection of payments made by anyone, for whatever reason, to the Consortium and makes payments relating to operating expenses;
- 4) may perform all the banking operations as part of special

relationships and mandates previously resolved by the Board of Directors;
5) presides over the General Meetings and Board Meetings;
6) oversees the execution of the consortium operations and fulfils the obligations assigned to him by the General Meeting or by the Board of Directors; oversees the keeping and retention of the Consortium documents and records.

7) can delegate, after consulting with the Board of Directors, some of his functions to the Vice Chairmen and/or to the Manager.

In case of prolonged incapacity of the Chairman, the relative functions are performed by the Vice Chairman, as specifically delegated by the Board of Directors.

On the proposal of the Board of Directors, the ordinary general meeting may appoint, from among those who have shown to be meritorious in achieving the company purposes, with two-thirds majority of those present, an Honorary Chairman of the Consortium.

The Honorary Chairman must be invited to the consortium meetings; may attend, in an advisory capacity, meetings of the Board of Directors and/or the Executive Committee.

Art. 20 - Committees and technical commissions

If the Consortium is responsible for more than one designation, a special Committee may be appointed for each of them.

If deemed necessary, the Board may appoint an Executive Committee consisting of a Chairman, Vice Chairmen and two or four directors and a Manager. The Executive Committee shall have the powers granted by the Board of Directors at the time of appointment. The Committee is chaired by the Chairman who convenes it at his discretion. The resolutions are made following the same criteria as the Board of Directors' resolutions and become effective once they have been examined and approved.

If deemed necessary, the Board of Directors may also appoint specific committees and technical commissions, acting in an advisory capacity on questions asked by the Chairman and by the Board of Directors. The composition must take into account the specific interests of the production categories.

The Manager will be called to become a member of these Committees and Commissions, which are formed by commissioners chosen from among the Directors, members and their delegates who have specific knowledge on the matter. They can also be integrated with the participation of experts with proven experience.

The Chairman or a Board of Directors shall preside over these Committees. A Tasting Commission for the protected wines can be set up with a special regulation.

Art 21 - The Board of Auditors

Members of the Board of Auditors, who may not be members, shall hold office for three years and can be reappointed.

The Board of Auditors is appointed by the ordinary meeting and consists of three regular members and two alternate members: the same meeting determines the fee and also designates the Chairman of the board. At least one of the regular members and an alternate member must be enrolled in the Register of Statutory Auditors.

The Board of Auditors:

- a) supervises the administration of the Consortium, as well as the compliance with the laws and these Articles of Association;
- b) attends the General Meetings and those of the Board of Directors;
- c) examines the financial statements and makes a report to the General Meeting, particularly relating to the correct accounting and to the balance sheet's correspondence with the accounting books.

Art. 22 - Appeals Board and Arbitration Board

The General Meeting shall appoint an Appeals Board, consisting of three members who can also be chosen from among the Consortium members. If not already appointed by the General Meeting, the Board appoints a Chairman from among its members, and, if necessary, submits for approval to the Board the regulations for proper functioning; these two Boards shall hold office for three years and their members can be reappointed.

The recourses set forth in article 7 of these articles of association must be referred to the Appeals Board, as well as - in the first instance - any other disputes that may arise between the Consortium and its Members. The Board, after hearing the parties, makes a decision based on the facts with the powers to act as amicable compositeur, without procedural formalities, subject to compliance with the adversarial principle. Parties may appeal a decision by the Appeals Board to the Arbitration Board. The Arbitration Board shall consist of three arbitrators appointed by the President of the Court of Treviso, at the request of the most diligent party.

The arbitration will be formal and the Board will also decide on the costs of the procedure.

The parties are obligated to follow and immediately implement the arbitral decision or resolution.

Art. 23 - Manager/Secretary and personnel of the Consortium

The management of the Consortium can be entrusted to a Manager/Secretary, appointed by the Board of Directors according to the most suitable methods.

The Manager/Secretary must meet the necessary technical and moral requirements, and:

- is responsible for the Office and the consortium services;
- executes the resolutions of the bodies of the Consortium according to the directives of the Chairman;
- acts in an advisory capacity at meetings of the governing bodies of the Consortium, performing the functions of secretary and attending the meetings of the technical committees.

The other Consortium personnel are also appointed by the Board of Directors and are placed under the employment of the Manager.

The Manager and the Consortium personnel are bound to secrecy.

Art. 24 - Internal Regulations

The technical and administrative running of the Consortium may be governed by internal regulations issued by the Board of Directors and subject to the approval of the General Meeting.

The internal regulations can include the powers of the manager, the responsibilities and powers of the Technical Commissions as well as the duties of the Consortium employees.

The regulations supplementing the articles of association must be approved by an extraordinary Meeting with a majority vote.

Art. 25 - Consortium Fund and Financial Statements

The Consortium Fund is formed by contributions from members, from movable and immovable property and from securities, as well as purchases, bequests, donations and contributions of any nature that may come into the possession of the Consortium.

It is forbidden to distribute, even indirectly, any profits or operating surpluses, as well as funds, capital reserves, during the life of the Consortium, unless the utilisation or distribution is required by law.

No other financial or equity rights can however derive from the partnership obligation.

The Financial Statements of the Consortium end on 31 December of each year. The financial statements, comprising the balance sheet, income statement and accompanying notes, must be prepared in accordance with the standards of good accounting and, as far as possible, in compliance with the requirements laid down by 2478-bis of the Italian Civil Code and must be accompanied by a report of the Board of Directors.

The financial statements must be audited by the Auditors, who must report to the General Meeting.

The Financial Statements, Board of Directors Report, Board of Auditors Report and attachments must be made available to Members at the registered office in the five days preceding the date of the first call of the Meeting, which must be convened according to the methods and terms provided for by article 14.

Since the Consortium is a non-profit organisation, any operating surplus may be allocated, by the General Meeting, to cover any deficits from previous years or carried forward and used to reduce the operating expenses anticipated for the following financial year or, finally, allocated to the reserve fund that may be set up for this purpose.

The General Meeting may decide to allocate a portion of the Consortium's proceeds or any operating surpluses resulting from the financial statements to one or more reserve funds in order to cover any contingent liabilities or extraordinary and unforeseen expenses or, possibly, for a broader and better implementation of the objectives set forth in article 3 of these articles of association, by increasing the "Consortium Fund."

Each Consortium member has an obligation to contribute to the formation of the Consortium Fund which consists of an unlimited number of shares whose value is determined in accordance with article 5 of these articles of association. The net asset fund of the financial statements is determined, at the end of each year, by the algebraic sum:

- of the Fund initially conferred at the time of incorporation of the Consortium;
- of the admission fees paid by those admitted to the Consortium;
- of any new capital contributions approved by the General Meeting of consortium members;
- of the financial results of the annual financial statements (operating profits and losses);
- of any contribution of goodwill pursuant to Law No. 201/2008 paid by new members at the time of their enrolment in the control system;

- of positive or negative extraordinary items not related to the ordinary management, such as voluntary contributions paid by consortium members or by third parties (public and private bodies) and any legacies or donations.

Contributions arising from the running of the functions and activities "erga omnes" as set forth in article 17, paragraph 4 of Leg. Decree 61/10 and their use, must be reported in separate accounts of the balance sheet. Operating surpluses "erga omnes" cannot be used to cover deficits for the "institutional" operation (towards members) of the Consortium, but must be carried forward in a separate count, so that they can be returned to all users of the designations, including non-members, or used to reduce the operating expenses "erga omnes" estimated for the following financial year.

The Budget of the Consortium must be prepared by the Board of Directors each year before the Annual Meeting of the Members and approved by the Board itself.

The estimated expenditure for the running of the functions "erga omnes" and relative allocation of the contributions paid by members and other taxable non-members (wine growers, winemakers and bottlers), calculated based on the amounts of the designation product (grapes and wine declared, wine bottled) and subject to the control system of the previous campaign, must be clearly identified separately from the items of the expenditure budgeted for running the consortium in favour of members.

Art. 26 - Consortium trademark

The framework for the adoption and use of the consortium trademarks must comply with the conditions laid down by article 17 of Legislative Decree 61/10 and MD 16.12.2010 (Incorporation and Operation of Protection Consortiums).

The Consortium trademark identifies the Protected Designation of Origin and consists of a grey crenelated wall with a gold border inside of which stands a red "P" against a white background. Three small golden diamonds are placed inside the leg of the P.

Fifteen small red squares surround the walls, symbolising the municipalities of the designation and the words: "Conegliano Valdobbiadene DOCG".

The use of the trademark is regulated by Legislative Decree No. 61/2010, in strict combination with the designation, and is reserved for all users of the Conegliano Valdobbiadene-Prosecco DOCG, according to the methods prescribed by the production specifications and any regulations of use provided by the Consortium.

A trademark is also used to identify the sub-designation of "Conegliano-Valdobbiadene Superiore di Cartizze" consisting of the aforesaid trademark with the addition of the word "Cartizze" in red above the **P**.

The trademark of the designation, resulting from the characteristics reported in the specifications and completed by the words "Prosecco Superiore dal 1876" underneath, is adopted by the Consortium for institutional purposes.

Other trademarks may be proposed and used by the Consortium towards its members, to be approved by the Board and inserted in the articles of association and in the production specifications, in accordance with

article 17, paragraph 8 of Legislative Decree 61/2010.

Consortium trademarks with different characteristics may be used with a resolution of the Board of Directors, even to distinguish products intended for the promotion and development of the designation.

Art. 27 - Operating Methods of the Nominating Committee

By 31 December of the year prior to the expiry of its mandate, the Board of Directors appoints the Nominating Committee which should take office within thirty days of said appointment.

By 31 January of the following year, the Committee shall send a report to all members on the candidates found for the position of board director; this report shall specify a term not exceeding sixty days from receipt for presentation of the candidates.

The report is accompanied by a special form to be returned duly completed and signed in case of candidacy.

In the same report, the Committee will indicate the deadline for preparing the list of candidates, so that it can be attached to the call notice of the nominating meeting.

Candidates for the office of Director can be identified only from among the Members who are in good standing with the obligations set forth in the articles of association.

Each member shall indicate the production category (grape production, winemaking, bottling) in which they perform their main activity and for which they candidate themselves, in accordance with article 16 above. Candidates cannot be nominated for more than one category simultaneously. If the number of candidates in one or more categories is lower than the number of seats available, the Nominating Committee shall examine the membership in order to solicit further candidates.

Art. 28 - Liquidation

If a cause for dissolution is verified, a liquidation procedure is opened and will be performed according to what is set forth in article 2275 et seq. of the Italian Civil Code.

The net assets of the Consortium resulting from the final liquidation balance are given to organisations with similar objectives or for public interest purposes, unless otherwise provided for by law.

Art. 29 - Final provisions

For any other matters not specifically covered in these articles of association, reference is made to the provisions of the Italian Civil Code and other special regulations relating to the particular nature of the protection Consortium.

Signed: INNOCENTE NARDI - ALBERTO SARTORIO NOTAIO (LS)

Certified true copy, containing legal signatures, which is issued on unstamped paper for all legal purposes.

Conegliano, 14 June 2012