

Not just wine... The Gourmet Arena, representing the culinary side of the Merano WineFestival

120 companies will present their wares at the Gourmet Arena during the Merano WineFestival between November 9th and 13th. The tastings encompass all of Italy, with culinary specialities, craft beers, spirits and liqueurs, and bring together 15 consortia and representative groups of the various regions. The aim is to celebrate the quality of Italian products selected by Helmuth Köcher, The WineHunter and patron of the Merano event.

Merano, September 12th 2018 - It's less than two months to go before the 27th edition of the [Merano WineFestival](#), which will be held in the city of Merano between **November 9th and 13th to the delight of many wine & food lovers** from Italy and around the world. For the WineHunter and patron Helmuth Köcher, it's an occasion to share a "hunting feast" with all the participants and celebrate a year of tastings; but also to seek out new things of excellence in the fields of wine and food, at the discovery of products representative of their regions and capable of combining both the past and the future. Such is the premise for **The Official Selection** with tastings in the historic Kurhaus and the more modern **Gourmet Arena**, which can be found between the prestigious location and the Sissi promenade on the Passirio River.

It is not just all about wine, then. **The Official Selection** includes **culinary products** such as *cured meats, dairy products, fish, bread and pasta, oils and vinegars, sauces, jams, preserves and mustards, mushrooms and truffles*. It's also about *desserts, coffee, a selection of "Beerpassion" beverages and Aquavita spirits and liqueurs*. The delicacies available for tasting **are produced by 77 food companies, 14 distilleries and 10 breweries** from around much of Italy and beyond. In fact, there are even products from Holland. In the Gourmet Arena, too, are **15 consortia and representative groups of the regions**, most notably *Territorium Abruzzo* with **11 wine and food companies**, and *Territorium Campania* with **8 wine and food companies**. In particular, in the *show cooking area* of Campania you can taste its regional specialities. All products in the Gourmet Arena have been selected by the Winehunter Helmuth Köcher and his tasting commission and are mentioned in **The WineHunter Award**, a guide available online at award.winehunter.it. These include the winners of *the Rosso Award* (from 88 to 89.99 points) and those of the **Gold Award** (90 to 92.99 points), or the **Platinum Candidates** (93 to 94.99 points), and some of them will receive the coveted **Platinum Award** (over 95 points), to be presented directly by the patron of the event, Helmuth Köcher, during a ceremony on November 10th. The Gourmet Arena is open to all between November 9th and 12th and you can already buy your ticket directly online on the website <http://www.meranowinefestival.com/biglietti/>.

The Merano WineFestival continues to prove to be the one event where wine & food enthusiasts can expect to find **a selection of the best that Italy has to offer**, with the opportunity to taste wines of exceptional quality that match the best creations of the artisans of taste.

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