



WINE ACADEMY CROATIA

INVITES YOU TO

ITALIAN MASTERCLASS

WITH

JO AHEARNE MW

SATURDAY 16th APRIL 2016

18:00 H

Congress Centre Forum (Green Gold, Radnička 50)

PRICE: 400 kn or 350 kn for WSET Students

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“WEIRD AND WONDERFUL ITALIANS”



In a world where globalisation is seen as a dirty word, the fear of 'internationalisation' is widespread in the more specific world of wine. Italy is one country that does more to push against this than any other - apart from Croatia!

There are more indigenous varieties in Italy than days in the year. This creates diversity and interest but also quite a bit of confusion....it's not for nothing that many people think that Italy is hard to understand.

But in the midst of the 'weirdo fest' I also want to explore what makes a grape variety indigenous or international. Is it pure hectarage or how far it has spread across the globe or how far it has pierced the consciousness of the wine-drinking public.

This is by no means an exhaustive list of the lesser known Italian varieties and no doubt we will explore more exciting grapes at another time but for now this is a little meander through this fascinating, complex and sometimes frustrating country.



Jo Ahearne
Master of wine

Jo first worked in the wine trade in the early 1990s at Oddbins in Central London and after two years went to Australia to work a vintage for Charles Melton, with his Nine Popes and Rose of Virginia wines in the Barossa Valley. During this first vintage she **got bitten by the winemaking bug** and decided to sell her house and belongings and enroll in a winemaking degree at Charles Sturt University in Australia, whilst also working at Pipers Brook, Bailey's of Glenrowan, Leasingham and Tintara wineries. Following this, Ahearne worked as a **flying winemaker** in Spain and France, was assistant winemaker at **Charles Melton**, spent four years making **Jacob's Creek**, and one vintage making wine in **Fitou in the Languedoc**.

In 2004, Ahearne moved back to the UK to blend wines for **Marks & Spencer**, before a stint as wine and spirits buyer for the iconic luxury retailer **Harrods**.

She now works as a winemaking consultant in France, Spain, Italy, Hungary and Macedonia while making **her own wine in Hvar Croatia**. She passed her **Master of Wine** qualification in 2008.