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Performance of interspecific grapevine varieties in north-east Italy

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ABSTRACT

A renewed interest in interspecific varieties has recently emerged, due mainly to producers and consumers more aware of organic farming and impact of phytochemicals in the environment. The assessment of 19 European *Vitis* hybrids was investigated in an area mostly dedicated to viticulture, the North-Eastern Italy. Major agronomic traits, yield, quality characteristics and disease resistance were evaluated during a three-year period (2004 to 2006). Wine sensory analyses were performed and compared with international *Vitis vinifera* varieties. Even though no genotypes resulted adequate for market release, the results obtained confirm the potential importance of hybrids in an "eco-friendly" viticulture and identify the genotypes interesting for further investigation and breeding: GF 138-3 and GA 48-12 showed good agronomic performance, resistance to more grape diseases and high quality wine.

KEYWORDS

Hybrids; Organic Viticulture; Yield; Quality; Disease Resistance

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