

Wine Roads

Along the cycling paths of South Tyrol

A film by Paolo Casalis

Duration: 60'

Subtitles: English

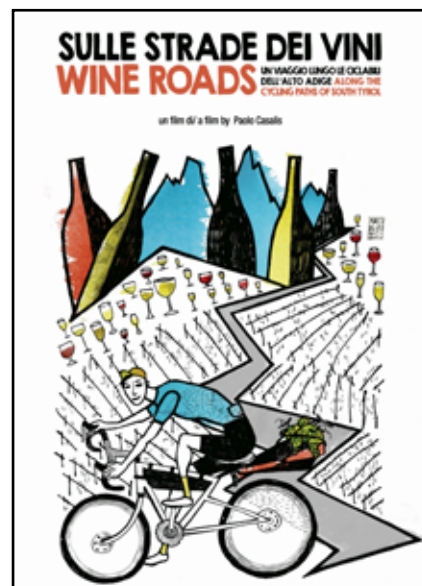
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Produced and Distributed by

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SYNOPSIS

A group of friends' vacation along the bike paths of South Tyrol becomes an opportunity to tell the stories of a land, culture, and main characters by way of its wines.

In the era of slow tourism and proximity, *Wine Roads* is a journey into the most bike-friendly region of Italy: almost 500 kilometers of cycle paths, the dream of every cyclist. After his [Barolo Boys](#), film director Paolo Casalis returns to the world of wine.

The documentary follows the trip of four bike tourists from the Veneto region: Marco, cyclist and artist, his friends Lidia and Carmelo (a young couple), and Adrian.

A journey through South Tyrol full of many kilometres on the bicycle, visits to wineries, meetings with over 20 wine producers, cheers and tastings.

Biodynamic and resistant vineyards, international grapes and autoctone varieties, tradition and innovation. If it is true that the world of wine can take a wide variety of different paths, even the less traveled or ones that others will only take in the future, here they are really trying it all with courage, determination and great results.

Whether we like it or not.

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Written and directed by
Paolo Casalis

Camera
Paolo Casalis,
Adrian Tudose
Lidia Dalla Libera
Marco Dal Bo
Isacco Scanavino

Aerial shootings
Armin Gratl, Cantina Valle Isarco
IDM Südtirol Alto Adige

Editing
Paolo Casalis

Production assistant
Tiziana Vella

Driver, problem solver & creator
Isacco Scanavino

Illustrations
Marco Dal Bo

English Subtitles
Elizabeth Bassett



With, in order of apperance

on a bike:

Adrian Tudose, Lidia Dalla Libera

Marco Dal Bo, Carmelo Messina

in a vineyard or winery:

Roland Lazzari - Mayor of Salorno

Manfred Vescoli - President Alto Adige Wine Road

Christof Tiefenbrunner - Castel Turmhof

Alois Lageder - Lageder Winery

Alois Ochsenreiter - Haderburg Winery

Sigrid Pichler - Tramin Winery

Johanna Frei - Wine Museum, Caldaro

Ing. Egon Kelderer - Dell'Agnolo Kelderer Architects

Andreas Kofler - Kurtatsch Winery

Gottfried Pollinger - Nals Margreid Winery

Martin Aurich - Unterortl Winery, Castelbello

Peter Perkmann - Monk, Marienberg Abbey

Hilde Van Den Dries - Calvenschlössl

Ludwig Schöpf - Ass. Culturale Oculus

Stephan Filippi - Oenologist Cantina Bolzano

Marialuise Flor - Wine Museum, Caldaro

Hannes Munter - Oenologist Cantina Valle Isarco

Armin Gratl - Genral Manager Cantina Valle Isarco

Brigitte Pliger - Kuenhof Winery

Simon Terzer - Archivist, Abbay of Novacella

Katharina Huber - Pacherhof Winery

Werner Waldboth - Sales Manager, Cantina Novacella

Willi Santer - Santerhof Winery



AUTHOR'S NOTE

(from the booklet *Travel Diary*, distributed with the film's DVD)

In the spring of 2020, in the middle of the lockdown for the Covid-19 pandemic, I received an email from Audiovisual Centre Bolzano, the institute for the promotion and diffusion of audiovisual and film culture in the Autonomous Province of Bolzano.

I never would have imagined that from that first, brief contact, the film *Wine Roads. Along the Cycling Paths of South Tyrol* would be born. I had just finished writing and self-publishing a book titled *A Guidebook to the Langhe by Bicycle*, and their email replied to my presentation and promotion newsletter with these words:

- Wine and bike, what a combo, it would be nice to do something similar for South Tyrol!

In the space of a few weeks I found myself working full-time on this project, contacting cyclist friends, booking hotels, studying the wines and cycling routes of South Tyrol.

Yes, because, unlike all the other documentaries I had already made, based on periodic meetings with a few identified characters or on the need to follow and document a single event, here it was all about planning and building a journey from scratch, and transforming that experience in a film on the road.

My passion for cycling (and wine!) helped me a lot, as did my experience in the last five summers working as a bike guide, leading American tourists in Tuscany, in my Langhe (Piedmont), in the Dolomites. Before starting to film, I had to build a bicycle trip, because *Sulle strade dei vini* is not a work of fiction: Marco, Adrian, Lidia and Carmelo really cycled and sweated, alternating cycling kilometers with visits to wineries.

A documentary studied and planned at the table, therefore, in which however I did my best to leave a certain amount of improvisation and randomness.

In fact, I have been working on documentary films for almost 15 years, and over time I have defined my own method of writing and directing: in short, it's an improvisation based on a scheme, like that of jazz music. Contrary to everything that can be read about documentary cinema, I like to present myself in front of the future protagonists of my film with a partial knowledge of whom they are, what they do and how they do it, in order to maintain the right degree of curiosity, to be still "overwhelmed" by the flow of events.

During the preparation of the film, however, I came across a master of this "method", whom I wanted to mention and pay homage several times: Italian writer Mario Soldati, who in 1970, in his book *Vino al Vino*, narrated the world of Italian wine in a genuine, spontaneous, completely anti-academic way. In Soldati's book, to be honest, very few pages are dedicated to Alto Adige (this is the Italian name of South Tyrol), in a chapter that mainly works as preface to the author's second journey across Italy. However, those few pages were enough for me to build a narrative path, to describe a wine region that in just 50 years has literally changed its face. Soldati wrote that "90% of the wines produced in South Tyrol are made of Vernatsch, or Schiava", but today South Tyrol has carved out a leading role in the production of white wines.

Instead, something that could already be glimpsed in the pages of Soldati, and which has emerged strengthened over these 50 years, is the ability of South Tyrolean producers to dare, to experiment all the (infinite) roads that wine can take, to which I wanted to dedicate, since its title, the documentary.

In the end, I want to thank Romy Vallazza and Lucia Piva of the Audiovisual Centre Bolzano, who believed in and invested in this project and who, assigning a Piedmontese director the task of telling - in the utmost freedom - the story of their territory and their wines, have demonstrated an enviable courage, resourcefulness and will to create.

