

PAOLO DESANA

Casale Monferrato 1918 - 1991

He is unanimously recognized with the title of "Father of DOCs" having been the first signatory and speaker in the Senate of the bill that gave rise to the Presidential Decree number 930 of 1963, which later became a historic law, that is, the one establishing in Italy the Denominations of Origin of Wines.

1937

He graduated as a surveyor at the glorious Leardi Institute (the same one where Ottavi taught).

1943

On September 8th he was imprisoned by the Germans. Having always refused to join the Social Republic, he was interned in various concentration camps, including Vietzendorf, Oberlangen, Alt Garge, Unterluss and in the KZ punishment camp in Cologne where he led 360 comrades in open acts of resistance.

1945

On September 5th he returned to Italy.

1951

He was elected Municipal Councillor in Casale Monferrato and Provincial Councillor of the Province of Alessandria from 1951 to 1964. He was Provincial Alderman for Agriculture.

1955

He organized the "1st National Conference of the Hill" in Cerrina Monferrato from which the most important indications of agricultural and wine-growing policy at a national level arose.

1958 -1963

He was Senator of the Republic, elected in the Casale-Chivasso-Valenza constituency. Under his legislative activity, a path that had already seen previous legislative attempts for the protection and regulation of geographical denominations of wine, starting from that of other Monferrato people such as Bertana, Mensio and Morini in 1888 up to the legislative proposals of Calissano from Alba, Edoardo Ottavi and Arturo Marescalchi, was completed.

1966 - 1989

Is the President of the "National Committee for the Protection of the Denominations of Origin of Wines". In these years, over 200 Italian wines obtained the prestigious DOC recognition.

He collaborated with the "Corriere Vinicolo", "Civiltà del Bere", "Il Coltivatore e Giornale Vinicolo Italiano".

He was the first Director of the "Rivista della Provincia di Alessandria".

He composed the "Compendio dei Vini DOC", in collaboration with the food and wine expert Enrico Guagnini.

He wrote "Gente e vini del Monferrato", the result of a beautiful collaboration with the Casalese Dr. Gabriele Serrafiero.

In synergy with the Historical Institute of the Resistance of Alessandria, he published "La via del lager", published by Boccassi.

He was President of the Italian Committee for the hill and founder of the Circolo Culturale Ottavi.

"In 1963, the vast majority of wine produced in Italy was in bulk and was marketed without any labelling, mainly in the areas where it had been produced. It was prehistory, in short. The distance travelled in half a century has been immense, and the DOCs have played a major role in this epochal change. All Italian wine producers therefore owe something to Senator Desana, who passed away in the indifference of most in 1991, one of those politicians we would all need even now for competence, common sense and honesty" (Daniele Cernilli).