



DENOMINATIONS AND SYNONYMS:

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Belica, Bellizza, Bianca, Biancara, Bianca Istriana, Bianchera, Bijelica, Cepljena Belica, Grande, Grossura, Piccola, Plemenita Belica, Sempreverde, Žlahtna Belica, Belica, Bellizza, Bianca, Biancara, Bianca Istriana, Bianchera, Bijelica, Cepljena Belica, Grande, Grossura, Piccola, Plemenita Belica, Sempreverde, Žlahtna Belica,

ORIGIN AND DIFFUSION:

‘Istarska belica’ is the most widely spread olive variety in the Slovenian olive orchards. After the frost in 1956, this variety was well known for numerous positive properties, which contributed to a fast expansion. According to oral tradition, the ‘Istarska belica’ (Istrian white olive) is autochthonous variety from Dolina and Boljunec area (Trieste, Italy). The first records on the olive varieties in Istria at the end of 19th century by Carlo Hugues did not include ‘Istarska belica’, which could be understood that it was brought to our region at a later time. Without any proof that this variety was developed from the original autochthonous genetic resources and was not methodically breeding, it cannot be listed among autochthonous varieties, so it is more appropriate for it to be ranked among domesticated varieties, like all the older varieties of a foreign origin that have been cultivated in the Republic of Slovenia for more than 50 years and are well adapted to our climatic conditions (Bandelj et. al, 2014; Vesel et. al., 2019).

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PURPOSE: Oil

MORPHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISATION:

Tree	Vigour	
	Growth habit	
	Canopy density	
Leaf blade	Length	Medium
	Width	Medium
	Radio length/width	Moderately elongated
	Curvature of longitudinal axis	Incurved
Fruit	Weight	Medium
	Radio length/width in position A	Moderately elongated
	Over colour at full maturity	Black
	Symmetry in position A	Weakly asymmetric
	Shape of apex in position A	Rounded
	Nipple	Moderate
	Shape of base in position A	Truncate
Stone	Ratio length/width	Moderately elongated
	Weight	Medium
	Symmetry in position A	Weakly asymmetric
	Symmetry in position B	Symmetric
	Number of grooves on basal end	Between 7 and 10
	Distribution of grooves on basal end	Evenly distributed
	Shape of apex in position A	Rounded
	Mucron	Present
	Shape of base in position A	Acute
	Rugosity of surface	Medium



MOLECULAR CHARACTERISATION (SSRs)

UDO-43	DCA3	DCA9	DCA16	GAPU-101
175/175	237/247	192/192	124/169	191/217

AGRONOMICAL CHARACTERISATION AND COMMERCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Compared to other varieties in the Slovenian Istria region, 'Istrska belica' can bear low temperatures well. The leaves are spirally wrapped. The fruits are medium thick and are usually of a bright green color at the time of harvest. Because of its erect growth habit, crown shaping poses some challenges. Experience of some growers has shown, that the trees become fertile earlier, if not pruned for a few years after planting. It is assumed that the variety is self-fertile, but preliminary studies have shown that even in monovarietal olive orchards the variety is preferentially fertilized with the pollen of other olive varieties, which are located very close to the olive orchard. In well cultivated groves, it is a good and regular fruiter. Until recently, the fruit ripened late, from mid-November to mid-December, but due to climate change, 'Istrska belica' is now harvested in mid-October. Its oil yield is high and it is therefore mainly used for oil production. The quality olive oil made from the 'Istrska belica' variety is distinguished by its rich aroma, reminding of healthy, fresh, optimal ripe olive drupes, and of freshly mown grass. High content of biophenols gives the oil its characteristic bitter taste and pungent tactile sensation. 'Istrska belica' olive oil is distinguished by its high content of oleic acid and phenolic compounds, and consequently also by its high oxidation stability. 'Istrska belica' is very sensitive to the attacks of the fruit fly, olive moth and olive peacock spot disease.

References: Vesel, V., Bandelj, D., Butinar, B., Bešter, E., Fantinič, J., Fičur, K., Podgornik, M., Valenčič, V., Volk, S., Baruca Arbeiter, A., Bučar-Miklavčič, M., 2019. Istrska belica: ohranjanje, vrednotenje, karakterizacija in zbiranje genskih virov oljk. https://www.zrskp.si/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/ISTRSKA-BELICA_spletna-izdaja_final.pdf Bandelj, D., Bešter, E., Bučar-Miklavčič, M., Butinar, B., Čalija, D., Hladnik, M., Hladnik, T., Kanjir, Ž., Levanič, T., Valenčič, V., Mazi, Ž., Miklavčič Višnjevec, A., Podgornik M., Valenčič V., Volk S. 2014. ABC o 'Istrski belici' = Factsheet on the olive variety 'Istrska belica' = L'ABC della varietà 'Bianca istriana'. Koper: Univerza na Primorskem, Znanstveno-raziskovalno središče: 16 p. Čebulj, A., Godec, B., Donik Purgaj, B., Hudina, M., Usenik, V., Koron, D., Solar, A., Vesel, V., Mrzlić, D., Rusjan, D. 2022. Sadni izbor za Slovenijo 2022. https://sadjarstvo.javnesluzbe.si/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Sadni-izbor-2022_CIP.pdf

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