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Cantina Terlano Wins the World’s Top Wine Cooperative Title

Cavit placed second in Weinwirtschaft’s 2026 global ranking, underscoring Italy’s strength in cooperative winemaking

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Two Italian wine cooperatives, Cantina Terlano and Cavit, ranked among the world’s top producers in the 2026 competition organized by the German trade magazine Weinwirtschaft, according to results reported Tuesday by WineNews.

Cantina Terlano, based in Alto Adige, was named the world’s best wine cooperative in this year’s contest. Cavit, the large Trentino cooperative that works with more than 5,250 growers and manages more than 6,000 hectares of vineyards, placed second worldwide and first in Italy. WineNews said Cavit covers about 60% of Trentino’s vineyard area, with 6,350 hectares tied to its production system.

The results add to the strong standing of Italian wine cooperatives in international markets at a time when cooperative wineries account for about half of wine production in both Italy and Europe, according to WineNews. The recognition also points to the growing weight of large, quality-focused cooperative groups in the global drinks business, where scale, export reach and consistent standards can shape buying decisions for importers, retailers and restaurant programs.

Weinwirtschaft evaluated wines from 106 cooperatives around the world, covering 636 labels across categories ranging from entry-level bottles to premium wines. All samples were tasted blind by an independent jury of industry experts using the international 100-point system, WineNews reported.

The French cooperative Plaimont completed the podium.

The awards ceremony took place in recent days in Deidesheim, Germany. The competition began in 2010 and, until 2024, was limited to Italy and France before expanding to a global field. Even after that broader opening, Italian cooperatives have continued to perform strongly.

For Alto Adige, Terlano’s win keeps the top global spot in the region after Cantina Tramin held it in 2025, according to WineNews. Terlano has long been known for backing age-worthy white wines, a style that helped define its reputation well beyond northern Italy.

The latest rankings are likely to draw attention not only because of prestige but also because they highlight a part of the wine industry that often combines large production volumes with a collective farming model. In regions such as Trentino and Alto Adige, those cooperatives play a central role in grape growing, local employment and export strategy, making international recognition important for both producers and buyers across the beverage trade.