



FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF RURAL CIVILIZATION

Dedicated to **Benito Nonino**

Benito Nonino Italy's 'father of grappa' whose family distillery elevated the uncouth, poor relation of wine into a premium beverage





PRESS RELEASE

The Jury of the Nonino Prize, presided by Antonio Damasio, and composed by Adonis, Suad Amiry, John Banville, Luca Cendali, Mauro Ceruti, Jorie Graham, Amin Maalouf, Claudio Magris, Norman Manea and Edgar Morin has awarded the Nonino Prizes Two-thousand-twenty-five as follows:

NONINO RISIT D'AUR PRIZE GOLD VINE SHOOT 2025	BEN LITTLE and PIGNOLO VINE
NONINO INTERNATIONAL PRIZE 2025 (La Nave di Teseo)	MICHAEL KRÜGER
NONINO PRIZE 2025	DOMINIQUE de VILLEPIN
NONINO PRIZE 2025 'MASTER OF OUR TIME'	GERMAINE ACOGNY

December 1, 1973 Benito and Giannola revolutionize the way of producing and introducing Grappa, they create the single varietal Grappa, the Monovitigno® Nonino, distilling the pomace of Picolit grapes separately. In 1975 searching for the ancient native Friulian vine varieties, di distil their pomace, they discover that the most representative – Schioppettino, Pignolo and Tazzelenghe (joined by Ribolla Gialla) – are on the verge of extinction, as their cultivation is prohibited. On November 29, with the aim of "stimulating, awarding and having them officially recognized, they establish the Nonino Risit d'Aur Prize – Gold Vine-shoot. Starting in 1977 it is joined by the Nonino Literary Prize which in 1984 will be completed with the International Section.

The delivery of the prizes and the celebrations for

Fifty years since the Institution of the Nonino Prize 1975-2025

will take place at the Nonino Distillery in Ronchi di Percoto, Saturday 25 January 2025 at 11.00

Program: _ Meeting at the distillery, welcome with L'Aperitivo Nonino BotanicalDrink, Nonino Grappa Cocktail and Amaro Nonino Quintessentia®

- The Nonino Family distils for the guests $\hat{U}E^{\otimes}$ Grape Distillate Nonino Monovitigno Fragolino Friuli Vineyards
- _ Award Ceremony of the NONINO PRIZES 2025
- _ Lunch and toast with Nonino'spirit' for **Fifty years of the Nonino Prize and Forty years of the Grape Distillate ÙE®** created by Benito and Giannola in 1984.

The award ceremony will be broadcast in *live streaming* on **grappanonino.it** starting at 12.15

MOTIVATIONS

NONINO RISIT D'AUR PRIZE – GOLD VINE SHOOT 2025 BEN LITTLE and PIGNOLO

On the fiftieth anniversary of the creation of the Prize, the Nonino Risit d'Aur wants to draw attention to the reasons for its birth and to the precious native Friulian vine varieties that in the 1970s were on the verge of extinction because their names were not included among the authorized vine varieties of the region. Giannola and Benito Nonino in 1975 establish the prize for vine growers and ampelographic studies, and begin the bureaucratic process to obtain the community authorization for the cultivation of Pignolo, Schioppettino and Tazzelenghe, joined by Ribolla gialla in purity. Authorization 486/78 which they obtain in 1978. For the 2025 edition, the Nonino Rist d'Aur prize is awarded to Ben Little and the Pignolo vine variety. Irish by birth and Friulian by adoption, Ben falls in love with the ancient Friulian black vine variety and devotes years of study and research to it, studies that he collects in the self-published book 'Pignolo - Cultivating the Invisible'. In 2023, he founds the Association of Pignolo of Friuli Venezia Giulia, which, having more than 34 active members, is the largest association of winemakers in the region to unite the energies of winemakers, researchers and enthusiasts of the legendary Pignolo, to promote it, enhance it and make it known all the way to the heart of the Cité du Vin in Bordeaux and Napa Valley.

The prize is delivered by Giannola with Cristina, Antonella and Elisabetta Nonino

INTERNATIONAL NONINO PRIZE 2025 MICHAEL KRÜGER

What does it mean being a writer? If we were unable to answer such a radical question we could invent Michael Krüger, but even that would not be easy, because Michael has always so many things to say, things about life and History; by reading what he writes we discover that these are also our own feelings and thoughts, but we need him to discover them in his articles, in his novels and short stories, in his poems to make them our own and to discover that he is the one who brings them out of us and that, after reading him, we have become a little more ourselves. *The prize is delivered by* **Claudio Magris**

NONINO PRIZE 2025 DOMINIQUE de VILLEPIN

Dominique de Villepin, a diplomat, scholar and intellectual, is a noble voice of high moral value. Since the time of his historic speech at the UN Security Council in 2003, with his lucid and courageous interventions on the events that mark our time, from Ukraine to Israel, to Gaza and beyond, he makes clear, without violent polemic, the whole dramatic international situation. His is a vibrant appeal not to resign oneself to the inevitability of war and the use of force; an appeal to the duty of truth in the face of the terrible events unfolding in many places on the planet; a continuous appeal to the right and duty to know, and not to look the other way, and find a diplomatic way to resolve conflicts; a powerful appeal to a universal conscience capable of recognizing that the tragedy of some is the tragedy of all mankind; and finally an appeal to action, knowledge and conscience to recognize the humanity that unites us. *The Prize is delivered by* **Edgar Morin**

NONINO PRIZE 2025 'MASTER OF OUR TIME' GERMAINE ACOGNY

Dance expresses the most arcane voices of the earth.

The Earth, whose preservation and care have always been the values of the Nonino Prize.

Germaine Acogny is considered the mother of contemporary African dance.

Africa, the ancestral parent of our human race.

Taking her art all over the world with performances and founding schools.

But when Madame Acogny dances on the shore or among forest trees her body becomes prayer.

The Persian mystic poet Rumi wrote: whosoever knows the power of the dance dwells in God.

Dance is divine joy and Germaine Acogny is dance. The prize is delivered by Mauro Ceruti

RONCHI DI PERCOTO, JANUARY 25TH 2025

Ben Little and Pignolo vine Nonino Risit d'Aur Gold Vine-shoot 2025





Irish (Dubliner) by birth, Friulian by adoption, with a background in Economics and Commerce, Ben Little has long since transformed himself into a writer, sommelier, blogger and poet by chance.

His deep devotion to the native vine varieties of Friuli Venezia Giulia launched him, in 2016, into the unexpectedly creative field of viticulture, when with a handful of "visionaries", he began researching and talking about Pignolo, a native Friulian vine variety, neglected but documented since the Fourteenth century.

He falls in love with it and delves into the history of this black grape, in its homeland and among its custodians and understands that growing Pignolo is not a financial choice, but a choice of the heart.

His studies and research become the basis for his 2021 literary debut with the volume 'Pignolo - Cultivating the Invisible' 432 pages, self-published only in English; a field study conducted for five years in Friuli Venezia Giulia, from 1,000 BC to a distant future, passing through today, through a journey of more than 40,000 km along the path of the Pignolo, its custodians and its land. A story of continuous perseverance that leads him to make the Pignolo known right into the heart of the Cité du Vin in Bordeaux and the Napa Valley in California.

In May 2023 he establishes, and is elected the first president of the Pignolo Association of Friuli Venezia Giulia (www.pignolofvg.it), today he holds the position of Honorary President, an association that Ben establishes to unite the energies of winemakers, researchers and enthusiasts of the legendary Pignolo - with the aim of preserving, telling, promoting and enhancing it. With over 34 active members, the group is now the largest association of winemakers in Friuli Venezia Giulia.

In 2024, having reached the fourth 'Word Pignolo Day', he organizes the Symposium in the Parliament Hall of the Castle of Udine, where there is a discussion about wine, territory, culture and art with the largest presentation and tasting of Pignolo ever held to date, 51 labels with the aim of spreading knowledge of working with everyone for the benefit of the entire world of wine in Friuli Venezia Giulia. English-speaking critics and wine-opinion-leaders are in fact discovering Pignolo and are gradually becoming interested in it, thanks to this work and the constant communication and networking work started and carried out by Ben Little, who is already working for the fifth edition of the event which will take place on March 20, 2025.

For more information it is possible to consult his website www.thenativegrapes.com and his Instagram account dedicated to Pignolo, called *Planet Pignolo* @planetpignolo and also the website of the Association of Pignolo del Friuli Venezia Giulia www.pignolofvg.it and on Instagram @associazione.pignolofvg

Pignolo is an ancient native black vine variety from Friuli Venezia Giulia. In the 1970s it was disappearing because its name was not included among the authorized vine varieties of the region. In 1975 Giannola and Benito Nonino established the Nonino Prize to save this vine variety together with Tazzelenghe and Schioppettino, later joined by Ribolla gialla, and they began the bureaucratic process to obtain community authorization no. 486/78 for cultivation which they obtained on March 8, 1978.

RONCHI DI PERCOTO, JANUARY 25TH 2025

Michael Krüger Nonino International Prize 2025



Michael Krüger, poet and novelist, was born in 1943 in Wittgendorf in Saxony-Anhalt, grew up in Berlin and lives in Munich. For many years he was the soul of Carl Hanser Verlag one of the most prestigious German publishing houses. He started working as a reader for the Munich publisher in 1968, and in 1986 he became its literary director, a position he recently left after a brilliant career that led him to include in his catalogue fourteen Nobel Prize-winning writers, including Joseph Brodsky, Derek Walcott and Tomas Tranströmer. He was the editor of the magazine "Akzente" as well as of Edition Akzente. He is a member of several academies, president of the Bavarian Academy of Fine Arts, and the author of several volumes of poetry, short stories, novels, and translations. A refined intellectual, Krüger has more than forty books to his credit, ranging from poetry, short stories, novels, literary criticism, and translations, including that of the poems of Cesare Pavese. His first volume of stories *Was tun – one altmodische History* (What shall we do – an old-fashioned story) was published in 1984. For his literary work, Krüger has published nearly two dozen books with poems, novels and stories, and has received many awards including the Peter-Huchel-Preis (1986), the Médicis Etrangers Prize in 1996 the Mörike-Preis (2006), the Joseph-Breitbach-Preis (2010) and the Cesare De Michelis Prize for publishing in 2023.

Bibliography

The End of the Novel, (George Brazillier – 1991); The Man in the Tower, (George Brazillier – 1993)

Himmelfarb: A Novel, (George Brazillier – 1994); Scenes from the Life of a Bestselling Author (Harvill Press – 2002); The Cello Player, (Harcourt - 2003); The Executor: A Comedy of Letters (Harcourt – 2008); Seasonal Time Change, (Seagull Books – 2021); The God behind the Window, (Seagull Books – 2022); In a Cabin, in the Wood, (Seagull Books - 2024)

RONCHI DI PERCOTO, JANUARY 25TH 2025

Dominique de Villepin Nonino Prize 2025



Dominique de Villepin, born in Rabat, Morocco, on November 14, 1953 is a French diplomat, writer, lawyer and politician. Bachelor in Arts and Law, wishing to pursue a diplomatic career, he studies at the Institute of Political Sciences in Paris, and at the National School of Administration, where he graduates. Member of the Club of Madrid and Honorary Member of the Raoul Wallenberg International Foundation, he works for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1980 to 1995, during which time he is first assigned to the French embassies in Washington (United States) and New Delhi (India), and subsequently holds the position of Deputy Head of African Affairs (1992 - 1993) and Chief of staff to the Minister of Foreign Affairs (1993 – 1995). In May 1995 he becomes Chief of staff of the President of the Republic, a position he holds until May 2002 when he is appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs and Representative at the European Convention on the Future of Europe (2002 - 2004). As head of foreign policy, he was a strong advocate of multilateralism and with Jacques Chirac, the leader of the dissent against the Bush Administration and the war in Iraq. At the UN Security Council he delivers a speech so resolute that it earns him the applause of the representatives of the member countries hostile to the conflict. In 2004 he is appointed Minister of the Interior and in 2005 he becomes Prime Minister, a position he holds until 2007, the year his mandate expires. From that moment he leaves active politics. Chairman of Villepin International – a law and consultancy firm, he is also Honorary Chairman of the Foundation for Arts and Culture (Hong Kong) and a distinguished professor at CEIBS (China Europe International Business School) Dominique de Villepin continues to speak widely against foreign military intervention and the importance of respect of identities and cultures in our world through lectures and conference. He is a refined intellectual, keen on literature and especially poetry, who has published several books, including poems, historical, political and art essays, and a study on Napoleon.

Decorations

Grand Cross of the National Order of Merit (2005) Commander of the Legion of Honour (2023)

Publications

Le Cri de la gargouille – 2002 (Albin Michel); Eloge des voleurs de feu – 2003 (Gallimard); Un autre monde – 2003 (L'Herne) with a preface by Stanley Hoffmann, American political scientist; Le requin et La mouette – 2004 (Plon/Albin Michel); L'homme européen – 2006 (Plon); Hôtel de l'insomnie – 2008 (Plon); Le dernier témoin – 2009 (Plon); La cité des hommes – 2009 (Plon) - Zao Wou-Ki – 2009 (Flammarion); De l'esprit de Cour. La malédiction française – 2010 (Perrin); Notre vieux pays – 2011 (Plon); La chute de Napoléon – 2015 (Perrin - Bicentennial edition); Mémoires de paix pour temps de guerre – 2016 (Grasset)

Germaine Acogny

NONINO PRIZE 2025 'MASTER OF OUR TIME'



Senegalese and French dancer, choreographer and teacher, **Germaine Acogny,** influenced by the gestural heritage of her grandmother, a Yoruba priest, developed her technique of modern African dance and all over the world se is considered the mother of Contemporary African dance".

Born in Benin in 1944 to a Senegalese father, at the age of 10 she moves with her family to Dakar, in Senegal, where she spends the rest of her childhood. In the sixties, after showing a natural talent for dance, she decides to move to France to study modern dance and ballet at the Simon Siegel's school in Paris. In 1968, at the age of 24, she founds her first dance studio in Dakar. Between 1977 and 1982 she is the artistic director of Mudra Afrique (Dakar), a school created by Maurice Béjart and the Senegalese president and poet Leopold Sedar Senghor. In 1980, she writes her first book untitled "African Dance", edited in English, German and French. When Mudra Afrique closes, she moves to Brussels to work with Maurice Béjart's company and she organizes international African dance workshops. This same experience is repeated in Africa, in Fanghoumé, a small village in the south of Senegal, with stage dancers coming from all over the world. After having been away from the stage for several years, Germaine Acogny has her come back as a dancer and choreographer in 1987. She works with Peter Gabriel for a video clip and creates her solo "Sahel". Other choreographies follow. In 1995, she decides to go back to Senegal, with the aim of creating an International Centre for Traditional and Contemporary African Dances: a meeting point for dancers coming from Africa and from all over the world, a place of professional education for dancers from the whole of Africa with the aim to guide them towards a Contemporary African Dance. The construction of the Centre - also called «L'Ecole des Sables» - was achieved in June 2004. But already, every year since 1998, three-month professional workshops for African dancers and choreographers are organized. About 40 dancers from all over Africa meet, exchange and work together each time. Her contributions to the training in dance and choreography of young people in West Africa and the wide dissemination of her work in her home country and around the world have made her one of the autonomous voices most influential in the development of the art of dance. Germaine Acogny believes in the power of dance to change people's lives and has always been committed to sharing her passion as an act of transformation and regeneration.

She is «Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mérite», «Officier des Arts et des Lettres» and «Chevalier de l'Ordre de la Légion d'Honneur» of the French Republic. Besides she is «Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Lion» and «Officier des Arts et des Lettres» of the Republic of Senegal. In 1999, she is decorated as "Pioneer Woman" by the Senegalese Ministry of the Family and the National Solidarity. In 2018 she receives a second BESSIE Award for outstanding performance in the solo "Mon élue noire-sacre # 2" and an Award for Life time achievements in the field of choreography, movement and dance from the Cairo International Festival for Experimental and Contemporary Theatre. In 2019 she receives the ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) Excellence Award, category Arts and Letters. In 2021, she receives the Golden Lion for "Lifetime Achievement" at the Venice Biennale. In 2023, she first receives the Joan Myers Brown "Keeper of the Flame" Legacy Award from the International Association of Blacks in Dance and then Grand Prix de l'Académie des Beaux Arts in Choreography.

ESTABLISHED IN 1975 FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF RURAL CIVILIZATION

DECEMBER 1, 1973 Benito – incomparable interpreter of the still – and Giannola, revolutionize the way of producing and introducing Grappa Grappa in Italy and throughout the world: they create the Monovitigno® Nonino, distilling the pomace of Picolit grapes separately. In 1975 Searching for the ancient native Friulian vine varieties to distill their pomace, Benito and Giannola discover that the most representative of them - Schioppettino, Pignolo and Tazzelenghe (later joined by Ribolla gialla) - are dying out, as their growing is forbidden. NOVEMBER 29, with the aim of "stimulating, awarding and having officially recognized the ancient native Friulian vine varieties", and so preserve the biodiversity of the territory, they establish the Nonino Risit d'Aur Prize - Gold Vine-shoot. In 1977 with the clear aim of highlighting the permanent topicality of rural civilization, the Nonino Risit d'Aur Prize is joined by the Nonino Literary Prize which starting in 1984 will be completed with the International Section, anticipating over the years 6 Nobel Prizes. JANUARY 25, 1997 on the occasion of the XXII edition of the Nonino Prize there is the presentation of Altan's book "Ben, Noah's fourth son", a graphic novel that tells the saga of the Nonino Family. JANUARY 29, 2000 Concert of the Mahler Chamber Orchestra conducted by Claudio Abbado fir the Twenty-fifth anniversary of the Nonino Prize. JANUARY 30, 2010 following a suggestion by Claudio Abbado the Nonino Risit d'Aur Prize is awarded to the Manos Blancas Chorus of Venezuela, a chorus where handicapped children and adolescents interact integrating themselves with orchestras and choruses. June 14, 2010 in honor of Claudio Abbado, the Nonino Family founds the Manos Blancas Chorus of Friuli, the first Manos Blancas chorus established outside Venezuela.

JANUARY 25, 2025 FIFTY YEARS OF THE NONINO PRIZE

The Nonino Prize has anticipated six times the choices for the Nobel Prizes:

RIGOBERTA MENCHÙ (Nonino Special Prize 1988, Nobel Prize 1992)

V.S. NAIPAUL (Nonino International Prize 1993, Nobel Prize 2001)

TOMAS TRANSTRÖMER (Nonino International Prize 2004, Nobel Prize 2011)

MO YAN (Nonino International Prize 2005, Nobel Prize 2012)

PETER HIGGS (Nonino Prize 'Master of our time' 2013, Nobel Prize 2013)

GIORGIO PARISI (Nonino Prize 'Master of our Time' 2005, Nobel Prize for Physics 2021)

THE JURY:

ANTONIO DAMASIO (neuroscientist – Portugal/USA)

President of the Jury;

ADONIS (poet – Syria);

SUAD AMIRY (architect – Palestine);

JOHN BANVILLE (writer – Ireland);

LUCA CENDALI (architect – Italy);

MAURO CERUTI (philosopher – Italy);

JORIE GRAHAM (poet – USA);

AMIN MAALOUF (writer – Lebanon/France);

CLAUDIO MAGRIS (writer – Italy);

NORMAN MANEA (writer – Romania);

EDGAR MORIN sociologist – France).

HISTORIC JURY:

Jorge Amado James Lovelock Ulderico Bernardi Morando Morandini

Gianni Brera V.S. Naipaul
Peter Brook Giulio Nascimbeni
Piero Camporesi Ermanno Olmi
Amedeo Giacomini Mario Rigoni Stern

Raymond Klibansky Padre David Maria Turoldo

Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie Luigi Veronelli

ROLL OF HONOUR NONINO PRIZE - Some Prize-winners

Claudio Abbado Chinua Achebe Zhong Acheng

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Adonis

Affido Culturale Giorgio Agamben David Almond Jorge Amado Emmanuel Anati Anne Applebaum John Banville Christophe Bataille [NONINO - SALZBURG]

Gian Luigi Beccaria

Yves Bonnefoy Rony Brauman

per Médecins Sans Frontières

Cyprian Broodbank Peter Brook Michael Burleigh Piero Camporesi

Luca Luigi Cavalli Sforza Suso Cecchi d'Amico

Mauro Ceruti Marcello Cini Hugo Claus Dino Coltro

Contadini della "Rosa di Gorizia"

Cooperativa Insieme 'Frutti di Pace' Yves Coppens Isabella Dalla Ragione Antonio Damasio Tullio De Mauro Roberto De Simone

Mahasweta Devi

Alfonso Di Nola Irenäus Eibl-Eibesfeldt

Norbert Elias

Carlo Feltrinelli [NONINO - SALZBURG] Annie Féolde Angelo Floramo Nancy Fraser

Fabiola Gianotti René Girard Jorie Graham

Francesco Josko Gravner

John Gray

David Grossman [NONINO - SALZBURG]

Jerzy Grotowski Durs Grünbein

[NONINO - SALZBURG]

Tonino Guerra Aron Gurevic

Lars Gustafsson

Peter Higgs NONINO PRIZE

'MASTER OF OUR TIME' 2013 / NOBEL PRIZE FOR PHYSICS 2013

Nguyên Huy Thiêp

Hans Ionas **Jean Jouzel** Ismail Kadare Yashar Kemal Raymond Klibanski Leszek Kolakowski

Jaan Kross Hans Küng

La Maison des Journalistes

Davide Lajolo

Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie

Gavino Ledda Siegfried Lenz Claude Levi-Strauss **Julio** Llamazares Franco Loi **James Lovelock** Amin Maalouf Valerio Magrelli

[NONINO - SALZBURG] Sergio Maldini Norman Manea Alberto Manguel Coro Manos Blancas Fosco Maraini Gualtiero Marchesi **Javier Marias** Giovanna Marini

Madri di Plaza de Mayo

Rigoberta Menchù

NONINO SPECIAL PRIZE 1988 / NOBEL PRIZE FOR PEACE 1992

Luigi Meneghello Pierre Michon Ariane Mnouchkine Edgar Morin Serge Moscovici Harry Mulisch Alvaro Mutis V.S. Naipaul

NONINO INTERNATIONAL PRIZE 1993 / NOBEL PRIZE FOR LITERATURE 2001

Nati per Leggere Martha C. Nussbaum Edward O.Wilson Ermanno Olmi Naomi Oreskes Sembène Ousmane

P(OUR) Drink Org

Alex Kratena, Ryan Chetiyawardana, Jim Meehan, Simone Caporale, Monica Berg, Joerg Meyer

e Xavier Padovani Raimon Panikkar

Giorgio Parisi

NONINO PRIZE 'MASTER OF OUR TIME' 2005 / NOBEL PRIZE FOR PHYSICS 2021

Viktor Pelevin

[NONINO - SALISBURGO]

Silvia Pérez-Vitoria Carlo Petrini Renzo Piano Damiian Podversic e alla Ribolla Gialla Michael Pollan Juan Octavio Prenz

Progetto Educativo per l'Infanzia

di Reggio Emilia Dina e Paolo Rapuzzi Domenico Rea Nuto Revelli Mario Rigoni Stern Henry Roth Edward W. Said

Ezio Santin Mario Schiopetto Robert Schneider [NONINO - SALZBURG] Leonardo Sciascia Leopold Sedar Senghor Jorge Semprùn

Harumi Setouchi Carlo Sgorlon Leila Shahid

Simonit&Sirch Preparatori d'Uva

Ngugi Wa Thiong'o **Hugh Thomas** Tzvetan Todorov Alain Touraine Tomas Tranströmer

NONINO INTERNATIONAL PRIZE 2004/ NOBEL PRIZE FOR LITERATURE 2011

William Trevor

Didier van Cauwelaert [NONINO - SALZBURG]

Emilio Vedova Lulu Wang

[NONINO - SALZBURG]

Mo Yan

NONINO INTERNATIONAL PRIZE 2005 / NOBEL PRIZE FOR LITERATURE 2012

Lian Yang Andrea Zanzotto