

TOUR 1 – CESENA AND LONGIANO

6 May
PROGRAMME

8:00 a.m. **Rendezvous and departure**
Rimini (province of Rimini)

9:00 a.m. **Azienda Agricola Trapani**
Lizzano di Cesena (province of Forlì-Cesena)

In Lizzano, on the foothills of Cesena, in an area where the microclimate and soil are particularly suited to fruit growing, Enzo Trapani and his wife Simonetta, along with Apofruit's technicians, have launched an interesting project: organically grown cherries with high-density planting. The farm has a total of 17 hectares,



of which 10 are dedicated to organic cherry trees and the rest to organic apricot and persimmon trees. The planting system was set up in 2017 by planting the so-called "astoni" (young plants) of the Sweet series (Aryana, Lorenz, Gabriel, Valina, Saretta and Stephany), Marysa and Early Bigi varieties on Gisela 6 rootstock with planting distances of 4m x 2m (1,250 trees/hectare) and narrow espalier training. A small portion of the planting system features the Colt rootstock with planting distances of 4.5m x 3.5m (635 trees/hectare) and low espalier training. The cherry orchard is entirely covered with the multitasking single-row and is equipped with a drip irrigation system. Harvesting starts in the first week of May and ends in the second week of June. In these seven weeks, high-quality, wholesome organic cherries are harvested while respecting environmental sustainability.

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10:30 a.m. Azienda Agricola Biondi Massimo
(province of Forlì-Cesena)



The farm, a member of Apofruit and organic since the year 2000, is made up of five corporate bodies located between the foothills of Lizzano and the Cesena plain, towards the hamlet of San Vittore. It has 22.5 hectares in total cultivated not only with fruit trees (peach trees 6 ha, apricot trees 4 ha, pear trees 4 ha, plum trees 1.2 ha, cherry trees 1 ha, persimmon trees 1 ha), but also with vines (2 ha) and olive trees (1 ha). The cherry orchard was planted in 2021, with young plants planted and grafted on Gisela 6, and partly on Gisela 12, of the following varieties: in order of ripeness, Sweet Aryana, Sweet Lorenz, Sweet Gabriel and Sweet Saretta. Planting distances are 4 metres between rows and 1.5 metres in the row, equal to a density of 1,666 trees/ha. The plants are grown using a double-axis system, along with a localised drip irrigation system and a structure designed to accommodate a single-row, multi-purpose covering system, with a single layer of netting at the top for protection against rain and on the sides for protection against insects.

The farm has been using the biodynamic method since 2005 and is agronomically managed by exclusively using multi-species green manure, which is sown in the middle of the orchards. It has never used pellet fertilisers for fertilisation. Over the years, Azienda Agricola Biondi Massimo has also set the standard for a group of farmers who teamed up over 10 years ago to research and experiment with biodynamic techniques applied to fruit growing farms, achieving interesting results. Thanks to this working group, the expertise gained from applying the biodynamic method was transferred to Apofruit, where such techniques were developed and applied by the “organic” associate members of Apofruit. This effort then led to the creation of the Verdèa production specification, a certification system aimed at developing and promoting biodynamic agriculture. The products of Azienda Agricola Biondi Massimo are not only certified by Verdèa, but also by Bioswisse, Demeter and Naturland, depending on which markets they are intended for.



12:00 p.m. Lunch

2:00 p.m. Vivai Battistini
Cesena (province of Forlì-Cesena)



Established in 1949, Battistini Vivai is an internationally renowned company specialising in the production of plants for professional use. The main products are certified micropropagated rootstocks, traditional and short-cycle grafted fruit trees, kiwis, small fruits and nuts. Today, the company exports more than 50% of its turnover abroad, without ever losing the authenticity that has always made it stand out: its passion and professionalism in serving each customer. Every year, with its 3 micropropagation laboratories, 10,000 sq. m. of covered greenhouses, 30,000-sq. m. of shade houses and a 115-hectare nursery, the company produces 11 million micropropagated



seedlings and 1 million grafted fruit plants. As for cherry trees, Battistini Vivai produces 200,000 grafted plants with more than 50 different varieties (among these are the main varieties of IPS - International Plant Selection, including the Royal® series and COT international, such as Nimba, Roket and Frisco) and micropropagated certified rootstocks of the Gisela® and Krimsk® series.

4:00 p.m. Apofruit
Longiano (province of Forlì-Cesena)



Apofruit is a first level fruit and vegetable cooperative that operates using its own facilities and has producer members all over Italy, from north to south. Today, for Apofruit Italy, cherry tree growing means: 20,000 q of produce supplied; 6,000 q of produce supplied in the Vignola area, of which 5,000 q PGI-certified, 10,000 q of produce supplied from the Apulian production area; and 2,800 q of organic produce. A turnover of €5.5 million; 330 producer members in total, 1 processing plant in Vignola and 1 in Longiano for organic products. Canova srl is the specialist company of the Apofruit

Group which, thanks to its partnership with more than 800 organic farms in Italy, of which 64 with cherry orchards, ensures a comprehensive range of products of consistent quality. Canova srl is a licensee of the Almaverde Bio brand, the leading brand in Italy in the organic food sector. It is also the first brand in Italy to have successfully combined the quality and safety of organic produce with the assurance of a well-known brand.

