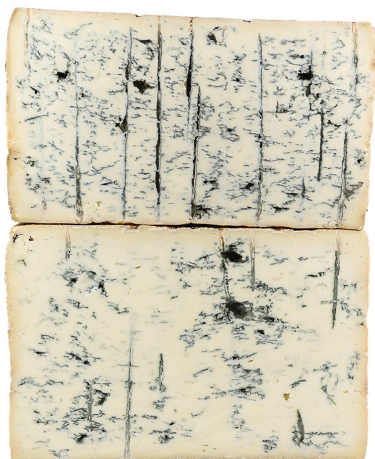


Gorgonzola DOP Piccante



According to legend, Gorgonzola was invented by a lovesick cheese maker who, in his haste to meet his lover, forgot the curd in a cauldron over night only to mix it up on the following morning. The resulting cheese, given that the more acid paste from the previous evening would not amalgamate perfectly with the morning's paste, had a wealth of folds and crannies which encouraged the development of moulds inside the cheese as it ripened. The outcome, however, was a pleasant change and the method was subsequently repeated deliberately.

In effect, the method of working with a 'double paste', mixing the evening's curd with that of the morning, has been used for many years in the production of Gorgonzola. Another characteristic of the production methods of this cheese that was awarded denomination of protection origin (DOP) status in 1955, is its 'baking' – the placing of the fresh cheeses in a heated room to favour the expulsion of the serum – and its piercing with needles to encourage the development of penicillin.

The Piccante version should be distinguished from the better known Sweet Gorgonzola, which is soft and creamy, as the former, traditional, version has a firmer paste with less serum content due to a longer 'baking' period.

Organoleptic characteristics

Aspect and texture: compact, yellow paste with widespread bluish-

Source

- Lombardia
- Piemonte

Type of milk

- Cow

Brands





Allevatore di Formaggi

green marbling. The rind is light reddish and is usually protected by tin foil

Taste: strong with robust traces of penicillin

Serving suggestions: full bodied, aged, red wines, sweet and liqueur wines, rum. Hot Italian fruit chutney, red onion preserve, Vin Santo or Marsala gelatine. Celery stalks. Rye bread and polenta.

Technical characteristics

Milk: full fat, pasteurised, cow's milk

Production method: artisan

Paste: uncooked, not pressed

Salting: dry

Ripening: at least 90 days

Production period: throughout the year

Fats: 48 % F-Dm

Weight: 10 -12 kg

Dimensions: 25-30 cm diameter, h. 30-35 cm

Producers: Dairies belonging to the Gorgonzola production and protection Consortium

Whole cheese code: n.d.

Cutted cheese code: n.d.