



R'Vampir du mas de la Combe, Italian Champion

Photo Credit: Vale L. Merighi, Du Mas De La Combe Fans Facebook Group Page

A Brief History of the Epagneul Breton in Italy

*The information in this article is taken from the Italian breed treatise "L'Epagneul Breton" written by Dr. Antonio La Barbera, of Palermo, Italy and published in 2009. Dr. Barbera is a longtime aficionado of the Epagneul Breton in his native country of Italy and an FCI All Rounder Judge. He made a generous donation of a copy his book to The Epagneul Breton Foundation, Inc. in order to assist in updating the foundation's bibliography of research resources about the Epagneul Breton which is published on the official web site at www.epagneulbretonfoundation.org.

The Club Italiano Epagneul Breton (C.I.E.B.) was organized and founded in 1959.¹ It is one of the largest and most active breed clubs in the world. Representatives of the breed had made its way into Italy shortly after the inception of the breed in France, with quite a few Epagneul Bretons being found in Italy after World War I and the population increasing by the 1930s. Dr. Barbera gives credit to Epagneul Bretons of French lineage from the kennels of de Cournaillle (Bourdon), de Callac (Francesci), de Keranlouan (Morin), and de Sous les Viviers (Riva) being of significant influence in the early development and expansion of the breed in Italy shortly after the formation of the C.I.E.B.²

One of the famous early Italian breeders and trainers who produced notable Epagneul Bretons was Mr. Domenique Covolo whose kennel was known as du Mas de la Combe. Mr. Covolo had strong contacts in the Epagneul Breton community in France and

¹ A. La Barbera, "L'Epagneul Breton", p. 62, Consiglio Siciolano, Palermo, Italy (2009)

² Id., p. 63

frequently trialed and trained there. He was known as a very stern and demanding trainer, before the advent of electronic training aids. His famous male, R'Vampir du mas de la Combe was a prominent sire in Italy and in France and is found in many pedigrees of EBs imported to the United States.



Mir delle Budrie, Italian Champion-
Photo Credit: Dr. A.La Barbera, "L'Epagneul Breton"

Mir delle Budrie was a very famous field trial champion from Italy. He was campaigned in field trials in Italy and France, and was one of Rodolpho Pellegrinotti's early foundational dogs for breeding in Italy. Mir was a very masculine or "macho" male, and was highly regarded as a stud dog because of his cobby physique, strong neck, thick bone, and excellent topline with a beautiful head and Breton expression. He was one of the first Italian dogs to be campaigned successfully back in France, and was bred to a number of excellent French females and produced outstanding progeny. Mir delle Budrie is found in many pedigrees of the earlier Epagneul Bretons imported to the United States in the 1990s and afterwards.