



CINTA SENESE, AWARDED WITH THE DOP

This breed has been protected at european level since March 2012

Cinta Senese had been spreading for its robustness, hardiness and easy adaptability to “in the wild” breeding, such as in woods and fields, where it finds its nourishment: berries, tubers, grass and cereals. Thanks to its naturalistic and environmental features, Tuscany is the ideal territory for this particular animal and it’s evident how close is the relation between tuscan territory and the taste of Cinta Senese meats is. For this, the Cinta had become protected by the DOP brand since March 2012. All the animals must be born, bred and slaughtered in Tuscany according to traditional methods and to be inscribed in an Anagrafic Register and/or in a Genealogical Book of the Cinta.

Another important recognition came in March 2020 with the go-ahead by the European Commission to a significant change to the specification of the DOP, a change that allows to extend this Designation from the meat only, to all edible parts of the pig. The main advantage being that now also the lard is DOP, making it even more advantageous to breed Cinta Senese given its high percentage of such very distinctively healthy lard.

Each animal has to be identified within 45 days from birth, by eartag. This allows single animal identification. After 4 months, during which the piglets can get a specific daily food integration (not more than 2% of live weight, mainly whole grains, coming at least 60% from local cultivations), the animal has to be in open field or wood, providing a basic shelter for night time and bad weather conditions.

According to the regulation, three rules are crucial:

- 1) 1500 kg of live meat per hectare (about 10 heads of livestock), while in Organic farming the same number of heads can share just 2500 sqm. Cinta Senese animals live therefore in a space that is 4 times bigger than in the organic breeding.
- 2) The animals can be fed with cereals at 60% coming from Tuscany and no soy or derived
- 3) animals cannot be slaughtered before 12 months of age.

Breeding Cinta Senese was included in the 2009/2013 Program of rural development from Tuscany Region, as an activity of particular interest that promotes and sustains eco

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compatible agriculture, promotes biodiversity and consolidates the role of rural communities.

The new 2014/2020 Programme wants to develop these points for stimulating competitiveness of agricultural sector, for assuring the sustainable management of resources and action for climate, implementing an uniform development in territories between economics and rural communities, including creation of employment as established by EU Regulation 1305/2013 of European Parliament.