

## As Italian stocks crash, truffle prices go up 義大利股市直直落 松露價格節節高



Christine Scholtes Covic shows a tray full of freshly made truffle and plum taste pralines in her tiny production facility in the small town of Rakovica, some 150km south of the Croatian capital of Zagreb on Oct. 12. (Photo: AFP)  
克里斯汀·蕭泰斯·柯維克於十月十二日，在她位於克羅埃西亞薩格勒布南方一百五十公里拉克維卡小鎮的小型松露生產廠，展示一大盤裝滿新鮮製作的松露與梅子口味的乾果糖。(照片：法新社)

With stocks in Milan in freefall, it is good to be reminded that some values in Italy are shooting up. The price of white truffles has doubled to 3,000 euros (NT\$124,000) per kilogram in just a week.

Truffle hunters say the increase is due to low average rainfall in areas where truffle is found, as well as higher demand — particularly from buyers in Asia where truffle tastes have taken off, Italian news agency ANSA reported.

The price is now at around 3,000 euros (NT\$124,000) for large truffles and some 2,500 euros (NT\$103,000) per kilogram for smaller tubers — far higher than last year.

Italian stock markets are sharply down this year, and last Tuesday they dropped by more than seven percent amid fears over Europe's debt crisis.

The news came as the town of San Miniato in Tuscany gears up later this month for its white truffle fair — the main marketplace for the delicacy.

The town is famous for being near the spot where the biggest white truffle ever found — weighing in at 2.520kg — was dug up in 1954. The truffle hunter donated it to US President Dwight Eisenhower.

At a charity auction in Italy last year, South Korean wine critic Jeannie Cho Lee bought a giant white truffle weighing 900g for 105,000 euros (NT\$4.34 million).

“It's all for charity so it isn't logical prices,” she said then. □(AFP)

正當米蘭的股市跌跌不休之際，知道在義大利還有一些還在揚升的事，應是多多益善。白松露的價格，在一週內已翻漲兩倍，來到每公斤三千歐元（新台幣十二萬四千元）。

義大利新聞社ANSA報導，採集松露的人表示，價格上漲歸因於松露產地平均降雨量偏低，以及松露需求量上升——特別是松露品嚐風氣正蓄勢待發的亞洲，該地買主需求量大增。

大松露價格目前大約是每公克三千歐元（新台幣十二萬四千元），而小的約兩千五百歐元（新台幣十萬三千元）一較去年貴上許多。

義大利股市今年跌幅甚鉅，上週二就因為歐債危機而跌了超過百分之七。

該新聞發布時，正逢托斯卡尼聖米尼亞托鎮正為即將於本月下旬舉辦的一場白松露展做好準備，此展覽是松露這項美味佳餚的主要市集。

該鎮因鄰近松露採集地而聞名，當地一九五四年挖出史上最大重達二點五二〇公斤的白松露。採獲該松露者將此松露，捐贈給當時的美國總統杜懷特·艾森豪。

南韓酒評家李志延去年在義大利的一場慈善義賣，以十萬五千歐元（新台幣四百三十四萬元）買下一個重達九百公克的巨大白松露。

她就說：「這是慈善義賣，才有這般不合邏輯的價格。」（法新社／翻譯：林亞蒂）