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Nota di contenuto	Cover; Half-title; Title; Copyright; Dedication; Contents; List of figures; Prologue: The setting, the main characters, and two questions; I Alberto; 1 The legend of Saint Alberto; 2 The life of Alberto; 3 The afterlife of Alberto; II The wine porters; 4 The brenta and the brentatori; 5 Topography and migration; 6 Porters of the imagination; III Sainthood; 7 Making saints; 8 Sainthood by community; 9 Sainthood by the papacy; Epilogue: Dignity and memory; Appendix: Sources and studies pertaining to brentatori; Notes; Index
Sommario/riassunto	Indispensable immigrants recreates the world of peasants who streamed into the cities of late medieval and early modern northern Italy to carry crushingly heavy containers of wine. Written in an easily accessible and unassuming style, it is solidly grounded in previously untapped archival and visual sources. In this first-ever reconstruction of the forgotten metier of wine porter, topography plays a key role in forming the labour market; in the scramble to distinguish professionals from manual labourers the term artist gets divorced from lowly artisan, and wretched diet is invoked to explain w