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News



All's well, and in the South ...

"We're drawing close to harvesting and things look good, even if spring and the beginning of summer were a little problematic", says Attilio Scienza, Professor of Viticulture at Milan University and renowned expert on the subject. "In southern Italy - Sicily, Sardinia, Apulia and Campania", he told WineNews, "conditions are very good, with plenty of grapes and I hope, of good quality. In Tuscany's inner zones, there are a few problems regarding quantities for Sangiovese, while on the coast - Maremma and Bolgheri - things are OK. The same goes for Emilia Romagna, Trentino and Piedmont. Overall, the 2013 vintage will be better than 2012, thanks to a better weather".



SMS

An unexpected turn

A few days ago a Norwegian couple touring Italy discovered the "historical labels" of the Friuli firm Lunardelli: the labels depict a series of historical figures, and among those one can find both Mussolini and Hitler. Now the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, based in Los Angeles and historically dedicated to the protection of the memory of the Holocaust and to the hunt for Nazi criminals, has issued an official statement on the matter, inviting all wine distributors the world over to boycott the firm's production. "It is appalling that a firm can operate in such a manner in a country like Italy, which first embraced Fascism and was then occupied by Nazi Germany: and during that period, the Third Reich murdered countless Italian citizens".

First Page

The CMO promotion funds national ranking

Italian Decree number 34342 of August 7th, 2013, contains all the data regarding the distribution of Common Market Organization (CMO) funds for 2013-2014, and was recently published on the official website of the Italian Ministry for Agriculture (www.politicheagricole.it). 21.5 million Euros will be granted as public contribution, and financed with the quota of CMO funds that is managed at a national level: 31 projects, all dedicated to promotion of Italian wines in countries other than EU member states, will be financed. The largest contribution, 3.8 million Euros, will go to the temporary consortium led by Istituto Grandi Marchi, and the smallest one - 24.392 Euros - will be given to the one led by Campari Wines, the wine division of Campari. The text of the Decree, among other things, points out that 7.4 million Euros were set aside from the grand total of 30 million, in order to "finance the yearly quotas of projects approved in the past and active for more than one year", and 1.6 million were set aside as a reserve for multi-regional projects. The total sum of the financings, as WineNews had anticipated, has then been repeatedly slashed, and in many cases is well below the 50% threshold set by CMO rules (which was formally reached by lowering the initial request regarding the project). This is the timeline: the total amount of financings requested was 44.6 million Euros, 23.08 million were deemed eligible by the "Evaluation Committee" and 21.5 were given after the creation of the reserve for multi-regional projects. Among the projects that received the biggest sums - above one million Euros - some stand out, such as the Consorzio Italia del Vino - Progetto Top Quality Wines, 2.95 million Euros, the World Wine temporary consortium, led by Gruppo Italiano Vini, 2.67 million, the Premium Brand temporary consortium (led by Nosio S.p.A., the commercial firm of the Mezzacorona group), 1.72 million, the Vini di Qualità temporary consortium (led by Tenute di Toscana Distribuzione S.R.L.), 1.2 million Euros, and Ati Cmo 2013/2014 - 2014/2015 - 2015/2016 temporary consortium, led by Cantine Sgarzi Luigi S.R.L., 1.02 million.

Focus

Italy begins harvesting: an analysis

While Italians, by and large, are on holiday, some grapes have already been cut from the plants, especially in southern Italy. Any kind of forecasting is still premature at the moment, but unless the weather decides to turn decidedly hotter all of a sudden, like it did back in 2006, this year can be defined as a cool one, which definitely bodes well for quality. 2013 wines, then, might be more gifted with aromas and maybe a bit less concentrated, but with a higher lifespan compared to those of the 2012 and 2011 vintages. A rainy winter and a wet spring have surely helped on the 'water' front, especially compared to what happened just last year, but have also created a few health issues for vineyards, particularly regarding fungal diseases - not to mention the fact that the heavy rains have also disturbed the flowering phase of the plants. But, high temperatures or sunburns have not damaged the aromatic substances contained in the outer skin of the grapes. Given the current situation, then, the 2013 wines will mature more gradually and the current situation lets us say that the 2013 harvest is definitely expected to be at the very least better than last year's.



Report

William & Kate in Chianti?

According to the Italian daily "Quotidiano Nazionale" the Dukes of Cambridge, while coddling their firstborn George, are apparently negotiating the purchase of the Tenuta della Selva estate, previously eyed by Silvio Berlusconi. The estate is 20 kilometres from Siena and 90 from Florence, and the owner is Count Tommaso Masi de Vargas. There are 1.000 hectares of land and a ranch of Limousine cows deep in the territory of the Chianti denomination and it comes with a price tag of 25 million Euros.



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Wine & Food

"Made in Italy" exports to reach 34 billion Euros in value

Even though the Italian wine & food sector is currently dealing with weather damages, which are estimated to run close to one billion Euros, good news is incoming: according to the latest data on foreign commerce in June, exports are booming: 7% growth in the first half of 2013 over 2012. According to farmers association Coldiretti, this would push the grand total value of Italian wine & food exports over 34 billion Euros, mainly thanks to wine and vegetables, according to the farmers association CIA, with both sectors capable of pushing over 4 billions Euros in exports a piece.

For the record

A special guest in Custoza's vineyards

Years after the fight between Italy and Hungary over Tokaji, Hungarian President Janos Ader visited the Monte del Frà winery, in Custoza. Ader is no stranger to wine: "I was

born in the countryside", he said, "in a wine region, where I learned to know and love wine. And Italian wine is something to look up to for us".

