



OperaWine
www.operawine.it

Italian Weekly Wine News.it



Issue 104 - Sep. 2nd-7th, 2013 - Expressly for wine lovers, professionals and opinion leaders the world over
Registration number 709, Courthouse of Siena, March 31st, 2001 - Editor-in-chief: Alessandro Regoli

News



Bottura's fourth crown

According to rumours, says WineNews, Massimo Bottura, Michelin "three-starred" chef and head of the "Osteria Francescana" in Modena, will soon receive his fourth crown as the best Italian chef according to the "I ristoranti d'Italia" guide compiled by the weekly magazine "L'Espresso". The title would further consolidate Bottura's standing as a true star among stars in the world of Italian cuisine, together with the most recent one from San Pellegrino's ranking "The World's 50 Best Restaurants" and the title of "Ambassador of Wine & Food" from the Chilean government in 2012. Furthermore, his turnover has grown 28% in the last year.



A helping hand in China

Be it the United States or the Far East, the advice for Italian producers looking to expand towards foreign markets is the same: speak with one voice. And Vinality, with its "Vinality International Academy", aims to help them do just that by mixing both producers and distributors (among them the biggest distributors in China, such as Kelit, East Meets West Fine Wines, Gruppo Italiano Vini - Giv, Summergate, Hoonay Wines, Amore Fine Wines, Chu Xiao and Sinodrink) in order to create a common and successful commercial strategy. The project will be featured at the Chengdu fair, a temple for business in Asia, in March 2014.

Report

The latest "Wine Star Awards"

"Produttori del Barbaresco" has been nominated "European Winery of the Year" and oenologist Paolo Vagaggini, one of the world's leading experts on Sangiovese, has been nominated "Oenologist of the Year" for the latest edition of "Wine Enthusiast" magazine's (whose new Italian editor is Kerin O'Keefe: www.wineenthusiast.com) prestigious "Wine Star Awards". Last year, Umbrian winemaker Caprai won the "European Winery of the Year" award.



CONSORZIO PROMOZIONE
CARIGNANO DEL SULCIS



First Page

Assoenologi's take on the 2013 harvest

Even though only 10% of the grapes are in the cellars so far and the harvest is still susceptible to possible weather changes, Assoenologi, the Italian oenologist association led by General Manager Giuseppe Martelli, has nonetheless published its take on the upcoming 2013 harvest. Overall, the "Belpaese" should produce 44.5 million hectolitres of wine, an 8% increase over 2012. Most regions' production is on the way up, with 20% more in Abruzzo and 15% more in Trentino Alto Adige, Campania and Apulia. The only region in the negative so far, is Friuli Venezia Giulia, at a 5% drop in production. And, should the forecasts be confirmed by facts, Veneto should be the top-producing region, at 8.1 million hectolitres. Should one venture into forecasts for the most important areas and productions, Nebbiolo, the Barolo grape, should be the least productive variety in Piedmont, but quality is expected to be very high. Same in Lombardy for the grapes of Franciacorta and Oltrepò Pavese, where the harvest is on going, even if maturation is uneven, given the different positions of the vineyards. In Veneto the harvest will be at its height at the end of September, but for Valpolicella, home of Amarone, quantity should drop 10%, while quality should be "good, and in some cases excellent". In Tuscany, the harvest will begin in mid-September for Bolgheri and Morellino di Scansano and at the end of the month for Chianti, Chianti Classico, Carmignano, Nobile di Montepulciano and Brunello di Montalcino. Quality is supposed to be good, and in some cases excellent. In Umbria, and in particular in Montefalco, those spared from hailstorms could have a great vintage, superior to the 2012 both in quality and in quantity. The situation also looks very good for Aglianico and Taurasi in Campania, with a 15% rise in quantity and very high quality - same for the great Apulian reds, Negroamaro first and foremost. And in Sicily, where precocious white varieties are already in the cellars, the harvesting is beginning with reds like Merlot, and Syrah, Nero d'Avola and Frappato to follow: quantity is expected to grow 10%, and quality should be between good and excellent.

Focus

Top Barolo makers are "incensed"

Some Barolo producers - firms both big and small, with different philosophies but all prestigious - have anonymously voiced their exasperation to Roberto Fiori, journalist for Turin's national newspaper "La Stampa". The resulting article, titled "Enough with sheriffs in cellars", is full of examples of the application of Italian laws that is far too zealous and uncompromising, and that is always accompanied by hefty fines. Some examples include 12 bottles of Barolo Riserva 1990 forced to be distilled because they were not present on the sales logbook and had no sign saying "private reserve, not for sale", or a firm being charged with "deceptive communication" because it wrote on its website that grapes for Dolcetto come (as usual) from vineyards in the Barolo area. "Enough with preposterous fines and controls worthy of a police state. If the Fraud Prevention Unit has decided to get some liquidity by waging war on Barolo and Barbaresco, they should say so: we will all self-accuse ourselves, so they won't have to come to the cellars", a quote in the article reads. The piece turned heads because of the territory involved, but the situation is not confined to Piedmont...



Wine & Food

Allegrini, Venice and the Peggy Guggenheim Collection

The very best of Italian wines was front and centre during the Venice Film Festival, in one of the temples of art in the Laguna: "La Grola", the top wine by Amarone producer Allegrini, previously enriched with a label created by illustrator Milo Manara, celebrated its 30th birthday on September 5th at Palazzo Venier dei Leoni, as host of the Peggy Guggenheim Collection. The event is part of the Intraprese project, which aims to unite those firms that love the arts and believe that investing in arts and culture is a way to communicate it.

For the record

New grape varieties for Italy

Six new grape varieties created by the State Grape Institute of Freiburg, in Germany, that the Edmund Mach Foundation of San Michele all'Adige suggested be added to the National

Registry of grape varieties, were recently approved: their names are Solaris, Johanniter, Helios, Prior, Cabernet Carbon and Cabernet Cortis.

