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News



Bravo to Umbria and its people

History and nature have done their part, but the rest - which is no small feat - has come from the passion of entrepreneurs who have believed in Umbria, bringing it to the top of wine tourism worldwide, according to "Wine Enthusiast" magazine. Stories like Caprai's, who rediscovered and re-launched Sagrantino di Montefalco, or Lungarotti, winemaker and creator of the Oil and Wine Museum in Torgiano, or Decugnano dei Barbi, symbol of an historical wine like Orvieto, or the Tuscan firm Antinori, with his Castello della Sala, or winemakers like Renzo and Riccardo Cotarella, who are also producers, with Falesco - stories like these have made the territory great.



SMS

Costly hectares

According to the 2013 edition of the "Global Vineyard Index", compiled by the global real estate firm Knight Frank, the most costly hectares in the world are in Bordeaux, with prices ranging from 20.500 to 2.5 million dollars. In Italy, a hectare in Chianti Classico goes for 100.000 to 150.000 dollars, and one in the Brunello di Montalcino area is worth between 300.000 and 500.000 dollars, but the true king is the area of Barolo, where a hectare starts at 200.000 dollars, but can easily reach 1.2 million. Finally, the index points out, Bordeaux in France, Chianti in Italy and Mendoza, in Argentina, have the strongest presence of foreign investors, with 60% of them being domestic and 40% from foreign countries.

Report

Farinetti "joins" Ikea

Oscar Farinetti, patron of Eataly, will "join" Ikea: the bottles of winemakers that are part of Farinetti's "Vino Libero" initiative will be available in restaurants, bars and bistros of the famous Swedish furniture firm, straight from wood barrels containing bag-in-boxes created by Smurfit Kappa Italia. The project will begin showing up in stores in Turin, Carugate (Milan), Rome and Bari, and it will be present in all of Ikea's 20 retail stores in Italy by the beginning of February.



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First Page

Spain's indigenous grapes according to Gaja

Spain might not have the same quantity of indigenous or historical grape varieties as Italy does, but it still has a lot nonetheless. It does not have the same variety of territories and number of producers, but it is still very similar to Italy. And it is without a doubt one of the main competitors of our country, which has maybe snubbed it a little too much so far, focusing on France - but in the meantime it is gaining ground all the same. Angelo Gaja, one of the most renowned winemakers in Italy, has recently sent WineNews his thoughts on the matter: "We must not think that we are the only ones to enjoy the exclusivity of making wines from indigenous or historical varieties. Spain has a lot of them, like Tempranillo, Bobal, Garnacha Tinta, Monastrell, Carinena and Mencia for reds and Airèn, Pardina, Macabeo y Palomino, Albarino, Godello and Verdejo for whites. And it is a fact that both Italy and Spain are the two main names that pop up in the minds of the consumers of these kinds of wines". Furthermore, Spain might turn out to be the first wine-producing country in the world in 2013 (pending the release of official data), with 46 million hectolitres, and with sales volumes on foreign markets in kind - the Mediterranean country is right behind Italy on that account, and has an average price that is half of Italian wines. "Therefore", Gaja points out, "Spanish wine is often considered to have a very good price/quality ratio on foreign markets". Spain, though, cannot count on a catering level on par with Italy, which can pull consumption of quality wines, and it also does not have remotely as many winemaking firms as Italy does, since it has roughly 5.000 compared to the 30.000 of the "Belpaese". "Therefore, it cannot enjoy the same level of producers on foreign markets that Italy has, since they often go abroad both telling of our wines and our territories, as well as executing marketing procedures". Just like Italy, though, Spain has a lot of tourism, and can also play the "territories card". Not to mention a remarkable advantage, since its national language "is, among Western countries, the most spoken language in the world after English"...

Focus

Robert Parker around the world

Even Robert Parker, the most authoritative wine writer there is, has entered the business of wine-related events, with his "Robert Parker's Wine Advocate The Grand World Tour" (www.grandworldtour.com), which will touch all continents. It is still a work-in-progress, but it enjoys solid foundations, starting with the format: the shows will hinge on a gala dinner and a master class, which will see Parker himself, together with his collaborators and winemakers, the centre of the evenings. The first events of the tour will all take place in Asia, beginning with Beijing on January 27th, with the "Gala Hedonist Dinner", and the theme will be "The Great Wines of Pomerol & St. Emilion". Then Parker will move to Shanghai (on March 1st-2nd), Hong Kong (on March 5th-6th) and Kuala Lumpur (March 8th-9th). Furthermore, the star of the evening in Singapore will be Italy, since the master class will focus on "The Iconic Wines of Piedmont" and will be held by Parker himself together with Monica Lerner, while the "Gala Hedonist's Dinner" will be created by chef Antony Genovese, from the two-starred "Il Pagliaccio", and will focus on "Great Terroirs & Grapes of Italy".



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Wine & Food

2013 a great year for Romanée-Conti, Masseto

According to the 2013 edition of "Sotheby's Wine Ranking", Domaine de la Romanée-Conti was the auction house's bestselling wine, netting the firm 7.2 million dollars of the total 58 million in revenue. Masseto has been the top performing wine among Italian wines, and the most active investors have come from Asia, with Sotheby's auctions in Hong Kong netting 25.5 million dollars, followed by London (20 million) and New York (12.5 million). The global turnover of the fine wines market, though, has dropped from 335.6 million dollars in 2012 to 278.5 million.

For the record

Allegrini at the Hermitage Museum

The bond between Saint Petersburg's Hermitage and Italian wine has grown stronger: the toasts for the celebrations of its 250th birthday will feature Amarone by

Allegrini. "It is a pleasure and an honour, and after Guggenheim Museum, it further strengthens our ties with the world of art", Marilisa Allegrini told WineNews.

