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News



Italy soars in auctions, Liv-Ex

Italian wine is on a roll in both the secondary market and in auctions, and the best performing wines are Ornellaia, Sassicaia and Masseto. Regarding auctions, quotations of Italian wines "are going straight up", Steven Mould, Director of the European Wine Department at Sotheby's, told WineNews, "and have been doing so since 2009". Things are looking good on the Liv-Ex index as well: "the best 100 Italian wines", said Armando Branchini, Economics Professor at Bocconi University, "have registered the best performances compared to all other wines, France included, and Sharp's economic index indicates Ornellaia as the wine with the least volatility".



SMS

What a "Great Beauty"!

15 years after the triumph of Roberto Benigni, and once again, thanks to beauty, Italy comes back from a magical night at the Academy with the Award for Best Foreign Movie, courtesy of "The Great Beauty", a masterpiece by Paolo Sorrentino. It is a tableau of a decadent but alluring Italy, as seen through the jaded and cynical eyes of high-society journalist Jep Gambardella, played by an immense Toni Servillo. It is a clear message to be delivered to the Institutions, because the award has struck all of Italy with a jolt of pride: pride for our food, our artistic masterpieces and our landscapes dotted with vineyards. Our country is replete with "great beauties", whether or not we realize it, and they are all to be acknowledged, protected and loved.

First Page

Vitality 2014: exports, "organic" and training

Internationalization, buyers, exports, organic production and training: these are going to be the strongpoints of the 48th edition of Vitality (www.vitality.com, from April 6th to the 9th at Veronafiere, in Verona), the most important event for Italian wine at a global level. The 2014 edition will focus on some of the key themes for the market, both now and in the years to come, from the continuous growth of exports to the role of mass retail in Italy - which now accounts for 70% of all domestic wine sales - consumption trends (with organic wines growing without respite) to the fundamental role of training for wine professionals, who are ever more needed the world over. "We are dealing with a global market", Ettore Riello, President of Veronafiere, commented, "and Vitality will be both a platform and a system for the internationalization of all Italian wine firms". And, this needs to happen to properly support a sector that is a reverse trend compared to most other sectors of the national economy, and has been for years. "Comparing national GDP and wine exports from 2001 to 2012", Giovanni Mantovani, General Director of Veronafiere, stated, "we have seen that in 2001 GDP grew 1.9%, while exports grew 5.5%. And in 2012 the GDP went down 2.5%, but wine exports grew 6.5% nonetheless". Regarding internationalization, furthermore, Vitality 2014 will also introduce the "International Buyers Lounge", a new area expressly dedicated to B2B meetings, with Consortiums and winemaking firms on one side and foreign buyers on the other. Figures for 2013 also further confirm that exports lead the way for Italian wine, with 7.6% growth in value, reaching over 5 billion Euros: and organic wines are an ever larger part of that sum, so "VitalityBio", a salon created with FederBio will be dedicated only to certified organic wines. This, and much more, is what Vitality 2014 will be about: a not-to-miss occasion to check the pulse of Italian wine, and "Opera Wine"(www.operawine.it), the grand tasting of the top wines of the best 100 Italian winemakers opening the event on April 5th (the complete list is on www.winenews.it).

Focus

The seven wonders of Italian wine

The Italian wine world has its own "seven wonders" - the most beautiful wineries in the "Belpaese", considered architecturally beautiful and functional, according to wine lovers. The podium is all-Tuscan, since the top spot is Petra, property of the Terra Moretti Group in Suvereto, one of Italy's most famous designer wineries, designed by Mario Botta, followed by Antinori's new winery, created in Chianti Classico by Marco Casamonti, and at number three, the work of internationally renowned architect Renzo Piano for Tenuta Rocca di Frassinello, in Maremma (all three are pictured right). Regarding the bond between wine and architecture, according to a joint WineNews-Vitality survey (www.vitality.com), designer wineries truly are something to be acknowledged in the world of Bacchus, and among them some stand out, like "Carapace" of the Castelbuono Estate (Lunelli family) in Montefalco, Terre Da Vino in Barolo, Ca' Marcanda (Gaja) in Bolgheri and Mezzacorona in Trentino-Alto Adige. All "cathedrals", so to speak, to Bacchus, are both notable works of modern architecture and tools for winemaking.



Report

"Border free" bubbles

If only a type of wine were enough to resolve international crises, the situation in the Ukraine could be gone in a few hours. Sadly, Heads of State often prove themselves to be less far-sighted than some winemakers, who have used vineyards as the meeting point for different cultures, or as the means to renew historical bonds. Like the one between Italy and Slovenia, strengthened by Sinefinis, the "border free" sparkling wine, made with Ribolla Gialla grapes grown by Robert Princic and Matiaz Cetrcic.



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Wine & Food

Massimo Bottura awarded the "food Nobel prize"

After the Academy Award for Best Foreign Movie, Italy has received another important acknowledgment of its capabilities, thanks to renowned chef Massimo Bottura, who was recently awarded the "White guide global gastronomy award" in Stockholm: before him, the same prize was awarded to names such as Ferran Adrià and René Redzepi - that is, some of the most innovative "food artists" of recent years. Furthermore, Bottura enters such an "Olympus" after being awarded the fabled "three stars" ranking by the Michelin Guide.

For the record

"Mr. Nutella" still the richest Italian

Michele Ferrero, head of the famous Ferrero group headquartered in Alba, is once more the single richest Italian citizen according to the latest "The World's Billionaires" ranking

by Forbes magazine: Ferrero, with a net worth of 26.5 billion dollars, is at spot number 22, and he is also the richest individual in the "food & beverage" section.

