



News



Veneto leads the charge

The five years of the international crisis (2008-2013) seem to have steered clear of Italian wine, since it has grown 37% in value: the data comes from the ISTAT Institute, and have been studied by Assoenologi and Veronafiere for Vinality 2014. The U.S. and Germany, combined, absorb 41% of all Italian wine exports, but numbers are in the green almost everywhere, from the UK (+15.4%) to Sweden (15.2%) and from Norway (+12%) to Russia (+14.4%). Furthermore, according to the Regional Councilorship for Agriculture of Veneto, 5 regions make up 82.5% of all turnover abroad, with Veneto reaching 31.5% of the grand total, followed by Piedmont (19.2%) and Tuscany (14.8%).



A year on the road

Even if Italian producers - given the fact that exporting globally is an everyday business for most of them - are more than used to traveling, 2015 will truly be a year on the road: on March 15th-17th, everybody will congregate in Dusseldorf for Prowein, and then, just in time to freshen one's bags, comes Vinality (March 22nd-25th, but the final date must still to be officially announced). Then, one will have time for a bit of a breather before the 2015 Expo, which will open its doors on May 1st in Milan. And then, with the former still ongoing, Vinexpo will take place once more in Bordeaux, as usual (probably from June 21st to the 25th, but the final date must still to be officially announced). Not to mention all the other events in the U.S., China, Russia and so on ...

Report

A bad year for Liv-Ex

The Liv-Ex Fine Wine 100 Index (www.liv-ex.com), the most important wine index at a global level, has just had another bad month, the twelfth in a row. That adds up to an entire year: furthermore, March's 1.46% drop has gotten the index back to the levels of 2009. But even if things do not look good at the moment, there is a silver lining, represented by Ornellaia: the 2009 vintage of the renowned red from Bolgheri has grown 8.5%, reaching 1.160 Pounds per crate.



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Italian wine "crisis-proof", Mediobanca says

92% of Italian winemaking entrepreneurs are looking optimistically to the future, and do not foresee a drop in sales for 2014: growth will be still strong, but without the remarkable performances of 2011 and 2012. Sparkling wine producers are all looking forward to holding their ground, as the worst case scenario, and generally speaking, turnovers have grown 4.7% in 2013, much more than agrifood (+0.3%) and manufacturing (-0.3%). Exports have grown another 7.7%, and from a stock exchange-related point of view, the global wine sector has grown 225.7% since 2001. These, and much more, are the figures that can be found in the latest edition of the yearly report on Italian wine authored by the Study Centre of investment bank Mediobanca, traditionally one of the cornerstones of the Italian financial sector. The report focused on 111 Italian firms, all with a turnover of over 25 million Euros, and among those, the number of winemakers that foresee a growth in sales of over 10% has shrunk from 26.8% (2013) to 8.1%: the biggest Italian firms, turnover-wise, are Cantine Riunite-GIV (534 million euros, +4.2% over 2012), followed by Caviro (327 millions, +15.2%), by the wine division of the Campari group (228 millions, +15.8%) and by Antinori (166 million euros, +5.5% over 2012). 2013 has been a remarkable year, though, especially for the producers of sparkling wines: their sales have gone up 10.3%, but the foreign turnover of all Italian winemakers has grown 7.7%, with a total turnover growth of 4.8%. Sales have gone up 24.1% over 2008, with exports growing 40.4% in the same period: in 2013 50.1% of all bottles going abroad have reached other EU countries, and another 32.7% have crossed the Atlantic to the United States. The Italian firms with the strongest growth were Masi Agricola, Casa Vinicola Botter, Antinori, Gruppo Cevico and the Santa Margherita Group, and that makes Veneto and Tuscany the two top-performing regions of the entire country. Lastly, investing in wine seems to be a smart move: compared to a global growth of stock exchange indexes of 61.8% since 2001, stocks of wine firms have grown a staggering 225.7%.

Focus

"The great beauty" of Italian wine

Tuscany, with its culture and arts, Langhe, with their refined allure, and Sicily, where innovation meets the past: these, according to a joint Winenews-Vinality survey, are "the great beauties" of Italian wine - that is, the most beautiful winemaking regions of the "Belpaese". For Monica Larner, Italian Editor for "The Wine Advocate", "The great beauties are Italy's Southern regions, especially Sicily, because I like the innovations that have been taking place there regarding indigenous varieties". Ditto for Kerin O'Keefe, Italian Editor for "Wine Enthusiast", especially "the slopes of Mount Etna, with the smoldering volcano, the steep inclines, the dark soil, everything is breathtaking. And the wines are fabulous". Walter Speller, who writes for jancirobinson.com, cannot name a single place, but Sophie Liu, author of "Great Wines of Tuscany", Tuscany itself is unique: and MW Tim Atkinson shares that view. He is especially fond of Montalcino, "because of its landscape, untouched since the times of Leonardo, the town itself, and of course the wines". And for Eleonora Scholes, founder of spaziovino.com, the great beauty of Italian wine is "Langhe, since their allure is refined and stimulating".



Wine & Food

A German winemaker in Italy: the case of Ômina Romana

Anton F. Börner, President of Bga, the German Federation for Foreign Commerce, and quite the connoisseur of Italian wines, is a winemaker in Italy: he founded the Ômina Romana winery in Velletri, in the region of Lazio, with 80 hectares of vineyards, supported by oenologist Claudio Gori and agronomist Paula Pacheco, back in 2004, following a joint study between the Universities of Geisenheim, Florence and Parma. Its wines were recently the protagonists of a tasting at the Cibreo restaurant in Florence, with Daniel Thomases.

For the record

An alliance for China is forged

Consorzio Italia del Vino (or CIV) and Grandi Marchi will jointly invest 2.7 million Euros in a three-year promotional plan for China. The two associations aggregate 20% of the total turnover of Italian wine: as Ettore Nicoletto, President of CIV, pointed out, "some things simply cannot be accomplished on one's own".

