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News



"World's 50 Best Restaurants"

The countdown is on once more: next Monday, April 28th, in London, at 8:15 PM local time (and also on stream on the Web, at www.theworlds50best.com), the jurors of the renowned British magazine "Restaurant" will declare the winners of the 2014 edition of the "World's 50 Best Restaurants" ranking, one of the most important rankings in the world of catering, haute cuisine and culinary arts. Last year Italian maestro Massimo Bottura (pictured above) with his renowned "L'Osteria Francescana" restaurant, in Modena, was nominated at spot number 3. Will the 2014 edition end up giving him an even more flattering position?



SMS

A "single" Black Rooster

The wine market around the world is ever changing, and so is the role of Consortiums. And these two winds of change have met in the first "single-brand" wine shop of a Consortium, Chianti Classico, which opened its doors this week in the "Mercato Centrale", the new gourmand district created out of the old central food market in Florence, near the central area of San Lorenzo. According to Michele Zonin, President of the company of the Consortium (its operating arm, created to manage ventures like this one), "it is the first brick in our project. We have high expectations, and now we have our "home" in Florence. And it could be the first of many, who knows". Who knows indeed: it just might be the beginning of a new era...

Report

Assoenologi at "SanPa"

The community of San Patrignano, or "SanPa", created to free people from drug addiction and currently sponsored by the Moratti family, will host the 69th edition of the yearly conference of Italian oenologists' association Assoenologi, led by President Riccardo Cotarella and by Giuseppe Martelli (www.assoenologi.it). The main topics, which many notable figures of the sector from France, Spain and Germany will discuss, include wine culture, global markets and future strategies.



CONSORZIO PROMOZIONE
CARIGNANO DEL SULCIS



First Page

Apulia and Veneto, top of the Italian ranking

Apulia was the single Italian region that produced the most wine in 2013, but Veneto, with Prosecco in the lead, is by far the one where the most DOP and IGP wines were bottled. The data is from the AGEA agency and the Italian Ministry of Agriculture, and Unione Italiana Vini commented: the data regarding total production, though, should be taken with a grain of salt, since it could include wines made with foreign musts as well. That said, according to AGEA, Italy has produced a total of 53.6 million hectolitres of wine in 2013, the largest quantity in the new millennium (19% more than 2012, a scarce vintage), and Apulia (10.57 million hectolitres, 37% more year-over-year) has overtaken Veneto (10.06 million, 10% more compared to 2012) in the ranking of the most productive regions, followed by Emilia Romagna, Sicily, Abruzzo, Piedmont and Tuscany. Unione Italiana Vini has also analysed the data regarding DOP and IGP wines, and Veneto is still the leader, with Prosecco firmly on top of the DOP category - 1.8 million hectolitres, 15.7% of all DOP wines. Then come Chianti (at number 2, with 760.650 hectolitres), Asti (745.524 hectolitres) and Montepulciano d'Abruzzo (at 4, 650.301 hectolitres), Prosecco di Conegliano Valdobbiadene (number 5), Soave (at spot 6), Bardolino (number 11), Valpolicella Ripasso (at 12) and Valpolicella (at 15): the sum of all the above makes Veneto responsible for almost a full third (30%) of all DOP wines bottled in Italy. The "top 10" ranking also features Alto Adige (number 7), Trentino (at 8), Chianti Classico (at 9) and Piedmont (at 10), for a grand total of 11.5 million hectolitres of DOP wines, or 1.54 billion bottles. But Veneto dominates in the IGP category as well, with Venezie IGP in the top spot, with 1.4 million hectolitres (18.4% of all national IGP wines), IGT Veneto at 2, with 1.2 million (15%), and IGT Verona at spot 12, with 134.729 hectolitres (1.6%). Veneto therefore makes over 35% of all Italian IGT wines. Finally, the "top 10" ranking of IGT wines features Terre Siciliane, Emilia, Rubicone, Provincia di Pavia, Apulia, Tuscany, Salento and Sicily, for a total of 8.5 million hectolitres, or 1.13 billion bottles.

Focus

A library-cellar at Guado al Melo

One usually uses a cellar to preserve wines, but sometimes it is possible to see books from the 18th or 19th century, treatises about vine-growing penned by names like Acerbi, Goethe, Viana, Vermorel, Babo and Mach, manuals, historical books, student dissertations on vine-growing and oenology, but also topics as diverse as history, anthropology, tourism and so on. These are just part of the 15.000 books that Professor Attilio Scienza, one of the leading experts of viticulture the world over in over 40 years of research and studies has collected in his "Wine Library" ("I have 5.000 more books that I use for work", he added), the only one of its kind in Italy, located at Guado al Melo, the winemaking firm led by his son Michele in Bolgheri. The books came from Piacenza and San Michele all'Adige, namely from Foradori and Gaja. The objective is "to safeguard all that has ever been printed on wine, and create a study centre". The library is also part of the historical and cultural experience curated by Annalisa Motta both in the cellar and among ancient grape plants, "in order to let visitors experience what wine culture really means. They are enthralled by it", commented Scienza.



Chianti
THE WINE

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Wine & Food

Russia and Prosecco: the Igristy Vina group buys Contarini

Russian capital has shown once more its affection to Italian sparkling wine. Following the winemaker Gancia's sale from Asti to the Russian Standard fund, Contarini, an important name for Prosecco (with an Estate and 14 hectares of vineyards in the Conegliano Valdobbiadene area, and a total productive output of 25 million bottles per year considering both Prosecco and still wines), has just been bought by the Russian group Igristy Vina for 8.5 million euros. "The sale began last July, and will be completed by May 2014", Artiom Pekov, CEO of Contarini, told WineNews.

For the record

"Rosato" around the world

From a mere curiosity to 9% of global wine consumption: the case history of rosé wine is interesting indeed. France is the number one producer, followed by Italy, and the

latter also has a contest dedicated to rosé wines. And, Diageo Chateau & Estate has just added Chateau Minuty, a notable producer of rosé from Provence, to its U.S. portfolio.

