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News



A new UNESCO heritage site

Finally, it is official: after a journey that lasted 11 years, the wine landscape of Langhe-Roero and Monferrato, one of the most important territories where wine is a pillar of local history, has become a world UNESCO heritage site. It is the 50th site for Italy, but the very first one, for our country, which openly centred its candidacy on winemaking and wine, which have been the twin souls of the economy and the society of that region. The new site includes, in Barolo DOCG, the municipalities of Barolo, Castiglione Falletto, Grinzane Cavour, La Morra, Monforte d'Alba, Novello, Serralunga d'Alba, and in Barbaresco DOCG, those of Barbaresco and Neive.



Gaja & UNESCO

"The wine region of southern Piedmont is one single entity, and the areas in question are like pearls mounted on a precious chain. They shine only when meshed together", commented Angelo Gaja regarding the UNESCO victory of Langhe-Roero and Monferrato. "Now that the dream has come true", he told WineNews, "it must be brought to fruition. We must plan a future that makes the necessary sacrifices acceptable, without rushing for the quick buck of increasing tourism. It will be necessary to stay away from casual tourists, following instead those who cultivate passions tied to the culture of wine. We will have to learn how to safeguard the territories of excellence, sparing them from becoming massive shops and stages of events that are not useful to the wine world".

Report

A home for Gallo Nero

This week, in the old Convent of Santa Maria al Prato, in Radda in Chianti, the "Chianti Classico House" - not a simple wine shop, but a home dedicated to wine culture excellence - opened its doors to the general public. The initiative, created by the Consortium of Chianti Classico, will make the old convent a veritable academy and trove of wine and gastronomic art, a newfound home for the eponymous "Black Rooster" and the first venue of its kind in Italy to be created by a wine Consortium.



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First Page

Piedmont's reactions to the UNESCO victory

Starting this week Italy is officially part of the club of countries that can efficiently appraise its wine treasures. "The wine landscapes of Piedmont: Langhe-Roero and Monferrato" - where two of the world's most prestigious wines, Barolo and Barbaresco, are produced - officially became world heritage sites of UNESCO. It is the 50th site for Italy, but our neighbouring countries have been betting big on their wine territories since 1999, the year when France received the U.N. seal on its winemaking region Saint Emilion. Since then, a sort of "free-for-all" has begun, and following Saint Emilion there has been Wachau in Austria, Alto Douro in Portugal, Tokaj in Hungary, Pico Island (Portugal again) and Lavaux, in Switzerland. The news has naturally been welcomed with joy and satisfaction by the entire world of Italian wine, not only in Piedmont. Pietro Ratti, President of the Consortium of Barolo and Barbaresco, stated "it is a fair acknowledgement of the growers that have conserved the hills of Barolo and Barbaresco, through vineyards that have always been wisely tended in accordance with traditions and farmers' knowledge". Filippo Mobrì, the new President of the Consortium of Asti and Monferrato wines, says the UNESCO decision "means acknowledging the exceptional global value of the Piedmont territory, of its history, of its identity and of its people". In Rome, Maurizio Martina, Minister for Agriculture, called it "a fundamental recognition of the cultural value of our agriculture". Roberto Moncalvo, President of Italian farmers association Coldiretti in Piedmont, has stressed the many possibilities that this news brings to the territories in question and that Italy further strengthens its position in the World Heritage List, which already includes a fair amount of territories where wine and wine landscapes have an important role, like Val d'Orcia, Etna, Cinque Terre and the Amalfi coast. One should not forget, moreover, that the hills of Prosecco di Conegliano and Valdobbiadene are on the current waiting list: their candidacy will be examined next year, together with France's Burgundy and Champagne regions.

Focus

Samantha, food and space

Samantha Cristoforetti (pictured right), Italian Air Force Captain and astronaut for the European Space Agency (ESA), has a mission: propagating the importance of correct nutrition for good health, both on Earth and in space. And to accomplish it, she has created a website called "Avamposto 42" ("Outpost 42"), linked to her future long-range mission on the International Space Station, which is called Futura. Cristoforetti will take off next November 23rd from Baikonur, in Kazakhstan, and stay in orbit for six months, carrying out scientific experiments related to the physiology of the human body. "The website", she explained, "is a meeting place of curiosity and teaching, and I got the original idea a couple of years ago, when the ESA asked us to choose a theme to work on once in orbit". Cristoforetti - past recipient of the "Woman of Wine" prize in 2010, by Italian winemaker "Casato Prime Donne" - has always been interested in the link between food and good health. "Food is the fuel of our bodies, and the site is dedicated to all those who are interested in this topic, not to mention all those who always keep their health in mind".



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Wine & Food

"Cantine d'Autore: New Art & Wine in Tuscany"

Rocca di Frassinello, Le Mortelle, Salcheto, Petra, and so on: the phenomenon of designer wineries, created by some of the top names in architecture from Botta to Gae Aulenti, has taken some of the world's top wine terroirs by storm, starting with Tuscany. Rightly so, since projects perfectly integrated with the landscape are great business cards for both the firms and the territory. And, in order to showcase these buildings - which oftentimes also house works of art - the project "Cantine d'Autore: New Art & Wine in Tuscany" was recently created.

For the record

Dom Pérignon, patron of Italian culture

Dom Pérignon, one of Champagne's most famous maisons and part of the LVMH group, has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Venetian Foundation for Local

Museums in order to renovate two halls of Ca' Pesaro, home of the International Gallery of Modern Art. The halls in question are currently used as warehouses.

