



OperaWine
www.operawine.it

Italian Weekly Wine News.it

vinality
INTERNATIONAL

Issue 155 - Aug. 4th-9th, 2014 - Expressly for wine lovers, professionals and opinion leaders the world over
Registration number 709, Courthouse of Siena, March 31st, 2001 - Editor-in-chief: Alessandro Regoli

News



Luxury wine tourism

U.S. Internet portal Fodor's Travel (www.fodors.com) has recently created a ranking for the 10 World's Most Luxurious Wine Country Hotels: a true dream journey that starts at the 22 suites with a view of the ocean at The Farm at Cape Kidnappers, in New Zealand's Hawke's Bay, and then proceeds to Argentina, then Spain - specifically, Hotel Marqués de Riscal, designed by none other than superstar architect Frank Gehry - and finally to Italy, with Il Borgo del Castello Banfi (pictured above), a medieval castle turned high-end resort, deep in the vineyard-studded hills of one of the Belpaese's most famous wine denominations, Brunello di Montalcino.



SMS

A sad day for wine & food

Stefano Bonilli, the undisputed godfather of wine & food journalism in Italy, unexpectedly passed away. From his desk at Italian left-wing daily "Il Manifesto", Bonilli created, back in 1986, the "Gambero Rosso" - an 8-page supplement dedicated entirely to wine and food. In 1992 it became a full-fledged magazine, and in the meantime, Bonilli had also created, together with Slow Food, the first guide to Italian wines, "Guida Vini d'Italia". Then, in 1999, Gambero Rosso also expanded to television with a thematic channel, and in 2002 the first edition of the "Città del Gusto" event took place in Rome. All of these creations saw him at the helm, and to the last, he kept pouring his passion into every one of his endeavours. The world of Italian wine & food is undoubtedly a lesser place without him.

Report

Libera Terra at the movies

The story of the "Libera Terra" cooperative, which manages lands confiscated from the mafia, is about to debut at the movies: the movie, called "La Nostra Terra" ("Our Land"), focuses on the story of Filippo, a man who has fought organized crime for decades, and is sent to help a cooperative that is struggling to manage the property of mafia boss Nicola Sansone. The movie, directed by Giulio Manfredonia and starring Stefano Accorsi and Sergio Rubini, will come to Italian theatres in September.



CONSORZIO PROMOZIONE
CARIGNANO DEL SULCIS



First Page

Italian wineries "are optimistic", says MPS bank

The global winemaking economy is still in a delicate phase, as consumption reprise is still to come. In 2013, on the one hand, wine production was generally medium-abundant (with new productive records in both Chile and Spain); on the other, the crisis is still hampering global consumption. These are some of the key results of the latest study penned by the Research Area of the Siennese bank Monte dei Paschi di Siena (MPS) on the winemaking sector both in Italy and worldwide. Furthermore, even if global wine commerce has dropped more than 2% in 2013 compared to 2012, a general increase in prices, which has characterized the first half of 2013, has made business grow 1.5%, to 25.7 billion Euros. 2014 seems to have started on a sour note, as international transactions have slowed down (dropping 1.6% in volume and 3.4% in value), mainly due to the drop of "on tap" wine. As far as Italy is concerned, which of course still has a fundamental role in global wine production (being the first country in volume in both 2012 and 2013, according to OIV), the domestic market is still struggling. Exports, therefore, are still the main driver for demand. Volume-wise, though, there are some signs of weakness, as foreign Italian wine sales are returning to 2009-2010 levels, while revenues are still going up (+8% in value in 2013 over 2012), thanks to good average prices, partly due to a higher average quality. The first four months of 2014 have been good, with exports growing 1% in volume and 3% in value. And, even if the crisis persists and some issues are still on the table - such as rising costs, the difficulties for less-structured firms to prop up business with exports, an ever-present bureaucracy, and so on - when it comes to 2014, the majority of the wineries polled in the MPS study is markedly optimistic; over 50% of them forecast a growth in sales over 5%. Moreover, even if international trade seems to be getting back on track quite slowly and feebly, almost 78% of polled firms are looking forward to a growth in exports - and foreign sales are focusing back to traditional markets, like the States and Germany.

Focus

Botrytis, a clear and present danger

If one were to believe in Shamanic rites, the thing to do right now would be a sun dance, rather than a rain dance. Because if the weather does not bring at least 2 full weeks of proper summer heat, quickly, the situation in Italy's vineyards could turn from worrisome to dire. This year has been exceptionally rainy: over 1.000 millilitres falling in the first 7 months - a full year's worth. After late blight, it is now the turn of botrytis, which becomes particularly aggressive the closer the harvest gets. The situation has been efficiently summarized by the Edmund Mach Foundation of San Michele all'Adige, together with the Centre of Laimburg, and refers to not only Trentino, but also other Italian winemaking regions, both in the North and in the South. "It will get better only if the sun comes back", explained Maurizio Bottura, head of the Foundation's grape growing sector. The state of the vineyards in Italy, but also France and Spain, will be examined also during a yearly event promoted by Veneto Agricoltura-Europe Direct, in collaboration with the Regional Authority of Veneto, Avepa and Cra-Vit of Conegliano, next August 12th in Legnaro, near Padua.



Chianti
THE WINE

A CAMPAIGN FINANCED
ACCORDING TO
EC REGULATION
N. 1234/2007



UN FUTURO GARANTITO DAL PASSATO

Wine & Food

Sven Göran Eriksson to try his hand at winemaking in Sicily

Sven Göran Eriksson, the Swedish football manager who was great in Italy, where he led, between the 1980s and the 1990s, Roma, Fiorentina, Sampdoria and Lazio teams (and won a premier league, among other titles), and currently working in China, is about to become a vigneron in the vineyards of Sicily, producing a red and a white, under the label "Sven". Both have an indigenous heart: the first is a blend of Grillo and Fiano grapes, and the second a blend of Nero d'Avola and Frappato. He started the venture thanks to the collaboration of two local winemakers, Stefano Ghirelli and Stefano Chioccioli.

For the record

Wine cruises come to Italy

Sea cruises with more than a touch of wine in their programme are quickly becoming a winning formula: therefore Italian cruise operator Msc Crociere has decided to bet on Italy,

with four stop-overs - Naples, Palermo, Messina and Civitavecchia. The cruises will also include tastings and conferences with Masters of Wine.

