



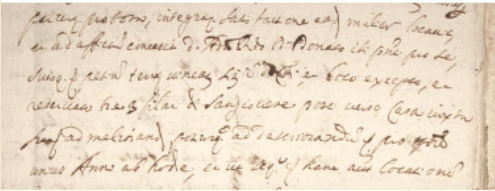
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# Italian Weekly Wine News.it



Issue 161 - Sept. 15th-20th, 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



### Sangiovese, where is thy home?

It is one of the most famous varieties in Italy, but the origins of Sangiovese are still hard to define, especially regarding whether it comes from the neighbouring regions of Emilia Romagna or Tuscany. A recent discovery might score a hard blow for the former, though, since an official document, dating all the way back to 1672 (pictured above), testifies its growing in the Faenza mountain area of the Appennini range. The matter has been researched by historian Beppe Sangiorgi, especially regarding the origin of the name, in his book, titled "Sangiovese, wine of Romagna", written together with Giordano Zinzani and a foreword by Massimo Montanari.



### Gambero Rosso's "darlings"

The latest edition of the "I Vini d'Italia" guide by "Gambero Rosso" has awarded its top marks, the "Three Glasses" to no less than 423 wines. The three leading regions are still Piedmont, with 79 "Three Glasses", Tuscany, with 72, and Veneto with 36. Some producers have had multiple wines awarded with the coveted top marks, like Domini Castellare di Castellina (with four "Three Glasses"), Antinori, Antonio Moretti, the Zonin group and Gruppo Italiano Vini (three apiece), and ColleMassari and the Moretti group, with two. Finally, the following "darlings" of the gilded world of auctions have been awarded top marks: Sassicaia 2011, Masseto 2011, Brunello 2009 Biondi Santi, Barolo Rocche del Falletto Riserva 2008 Giacosa and Barolo Cannubi Boschis 2010 Sandrone.

## Report

### Italian food is the safest

According to Italian farmers association Coldiretti, 71% of Italians are worried about food counterfeiting, but the vigilance of the Ministry for Agricultural Policies has given our country the very first spot regarding food safety. The activities of the Ministry on the matter were recently showcased in Rome, and Coldiretti's President Roberto Moncalvo stated, "It is a heinous crime, because it preys on those with less spending power, and those forced to shop at bargain rates".



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## First Page

### Barolo, Alto Adige and Tuscany: the stars of Italian wines map according to "Gambero Rosso"

Taking into account the latest results of the 2015 edition of the prestigious "I Vini d'Italia" guide, published by "Gambero Rosso", the current wine map of Italy seems to be quite clear and, unsurprisingly, still hinges on some traditional champions of the wine of the "Belpaese". Piedmont, for example, has received no less than 79 "three glasses" (the guide's top marks), all to DOC or DOCG wines, but Tuscany, which has reached quota 72, has managed to do so thanks to its IGT wines, which still make up the lion's share of its wines of excellence. It is a clear heritage of that "Supertuscan power", which still seems to have quite a lot of fuel in its tanks, and an unmistakable rebuttal of those points of view that see a stricter kind of denomination, like a DOC or a DOCG, as the only viable way to reach a higher quality level. In all other Italian regions DOC wines dominate, even in areas like Sicily, where their appeal was not exactly stellar until fairly recent times. Barolo still is the single denomination with the highest numbers of "three glasses" (no less than 31), followed by Alto Adige, with 28, and by Tuscany's IGT wines with 22. Chianti Classico follows, with 16 top marks, and then come three denominations with 11 "three glasses" each - namely, Barbaresco and Barbera, so Piedmont again, and then Verdicchio from Marche (with 8 top marks for the Castelli di Jesi sub-denomination, and 3 for the one of Matelica). Regarding the latter, the latest edition of the guide has all but certified its entrance in the very top tier of Italian wine. Amarone della Valpolicella has been awarded 10 "three glasses", just like Friuli Venezia Giulia's Collio and Brunello di Montalcino. Montepulciano d'Abruzzo has gotten no less than 9 top marks, just like the sparklings from Franciacorta, the single most successful denomination of sparklings according to the guide - followed, with 8 top marks, by Trentodoc.

## Focus

### Bordeaux is back, but Italy is strong

After more than a few rough years, fine wines from Bordeaux are apparently back on track: the horrible year 2013 seems to be gone, according to the latest data from the Liv-ex benchmark indexes. In August, the Fine Wine 50, which deals with Premier Crus, went up 1.3% over July, and the Liv-Ex Fine Wine 100 and 500 have followed suit (0.9% and 0.3% growth, respectively). These kinds of performances had not been seen for months, and they have pushed up the quota of trading Bordeaux wines to 81.8%, almost 6% more than July, mainly thanks to the 2003, 2005, 2009, 2010 and 2011 vintages. But there is good news for Italy as well: according to the Liv-Ex Fine Wine 1000 index, Sassicaia 2010 is doing magnificently, and has spear-headed growth of the total of all fine wines trading to 7.1% - better than Burgundy - but good performances have come from Masseto, Tignanello and Ornellaia as well. Still, even with this good show from France and Italy, the Fine Wines 1000 index has gone down an additional 0.1%. The reason is to be found in Champagne 50, which has gone down 1.44%, while Rhone 50 has gone down 0.6% month-over-month.



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## Wine & Food

### "Mr. Calzedonia" bets on wine, with an eye towards London

The idea of betting on high-quality "Made in Italy" products seems to have reaped a new victim, so to speak. Sandro Veronesi, at the helm of the Calzedonia industrial group and a renowned wine lover, has decided to try his hand in the world of the nectar of Bacchus, through the creation of a chain of wine shops dedicated to high-quality wines. The new entrepreneurial adventure has been christened "Signorvino", and the first retail shops have opened in Milan and Verona. Bologna, Rome and London seem to be next, with the UK capital becoming an ever more vital reality for quality Italian products.

## For the record

### Welcome back, King Truffle!

Truffle season is almost upon us once more, and the latest editions of all major fairs dedicated to the delicacy will soon open their doors. Sant'Angelo in Vado, in the Marche

Region, will be first, from Oct. 11th, and then it will be the turn of Alba, in Piedmont (Oct. 11th-Nov. 16th), and San Miniato, in Tuscany, from Nov. 15th.

