



OperaWine
www.operawine.it

Italian Weekly Wine News.it



Issue 177 - Jan. 5th-10th, 2015 - 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



Art, food and history

From January 24th to June 14th, Palazzo Martinengo in Brescia will host a beautiful tale of wine, food and art, from paintings to photography, spanning four centuries and titled "Food in Art. The Masterpieces of Great Artists from the 17th century to Warhol" (www.amicimartinengo.it). The exhibition will feature more than 100 works of art, from Baroque to Rococo and from 19th century Romanticism to the innovators of the 20th century, including some of the most impressive names of the former genre front and centre, like Guttuso, De Chirico and Warhol. A wonderful presentation of the centuries-long bond between art, food and of course wine as well.



SMS

Italian wine and the Pope

During his homilies, His Holiness Pope Francis often references the wine world, given both the relationship with the Catholic Church and the fact that Bergoglio himself is the nephew of a Piedmontese winemaker. The Italian wine world, thanks to the mediation of Franco Ricci and Italian Sommeliers Association AIS, will be a guest of the Vatican next Jan. 21st with a delegation of over 150 vintners, sommeliers, enologists and caterers, as well as news outlets, like WineNews. "Pope Francis", Franco Ricci stated, "loves good wine and has been following us on Bibenda for some time. He reads the magazine, and quite likes it". His Holiness, after all, is famous for his wine parables, like "there is no celebration without wine: imagine drinking tea at the wedding in Cana".

Report

A battle won for FIVI

FIVI, the Italian Federation of Independent Vintners, has recently won one of its battles - namely, the one that put them at loggerheads with some Consortiums regarding fair commercial uses of a more ample geographical name, therefore the Region or Province where the production of a given DOP or IGP wine is located. According to a document of the Ministry for Agriculture, dated Dec 31st, said use is compatible with the rules contained in European Regulation number 1308/2013.



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First Page

2015 wish list: Brunello, Bordeaux, the "others"

Popular website "Wine Searcher" has recently polled some of the most prominent wine merchants in the United Kingdom - a market that traditionally has been a sort of trend setter for global wine trends - regarding what 2015 will bring. Among others, Brunello di Montalcino is being eyed quite ravenously, because of the exceptionally high expectations for the 2010 vintage. "En primeur" sales in Bordeaux are expected to come into vogue again and independent vintners will probably see the quality and uniqueness of their wines get more accolades. "In 2015", Alisa Lopano of Zachys stated, "there is going to be a strong interest for Brunello di Montalcino 2010 vintage and we hope to see this Italian jewel among the most sought after wines in our auctions. After all, the 2010 vintage, according to expectations, will be up there with the 1997, 1999 and 2006 vintages". Joss Fowler, of London's Fine & Rare Wines, shares the feeling: "We hope", he stated, "that in 2015 Italian wines will be more in demand, primarily thanks to the great Brunello vintage". Among the most shared hopes, "en primeur" sales in Bordeaux are expected to pick up again, and as Mark Ross of Farr Vintners said, "the future of this system, and in a way the popularity of this wine region, is in the hands of the Chateaux owners. Interest has dropped for this extraordinary region because of the prices. We hope that vintners will realize this, and bring back the buyers' passion for their wines". Ditto for William Gardener, of Nickolls & Perks: "I expect prices to return to a more manageable level, thus bringing back buyers' interest". "Bordeaux is drawing a lot of attention in the States", Lopano added on the matter, "but the owners of the Chateaux must bring new life to interest their clients. The prices of the 2009 and 2010 vintages, which were too high, made the interest of collectors and aspiring aficionados wane". Finally, in 2015 some, like Stéphane Rognon from Bordeaux Index, hope to see "a higher number of independent vintners getting the praise they deserve for the quality and uniqueness of their wines. Sadly, due to the globalization of the wine market most people always drink the same wines".

Focus

Pantone paints a Marsala-hued 2015

Marsala is an ancient wine, and one of the very first Italian wines to be exported by Englishmen, back in the eighteenth century, thanks to the British merchant John Woodhouse and his trade ships. But, in 2015 Marsala is also going to be "Pantone's colour of the year, a firma that deals with graphic-related technologies and cataloguing and identifying colours". The news comes from Luigia Ingrassia, one of the members of the city council of Marsala, in Sicily. "With the ID code number 18-1438", Ingrassia stated, "the colour of Marsala wine has been described by the American firm as a cross between red and brown, thick and refined". According to Pantone's statement on their choice (<http://goo.gl/D2qwqr>), "just like Marsala wine, this hue embodies the richness of a filling, satisfying meal, and this colour between red and brown emanates a natural earthiness, universally attractive, and one that is easily used in fashion, beauty but also in industrial and furniture design as well". It looks like it's definitely going to be a Marsala-tinted 2015, then - and, hopefully, this choice by Pantone will bring good tidings for Italian wine in its entirety, and not only for the Sicilians...



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Wine & Food

2015 to be another tough year for food and Italian mass retail

2014 was the year of the "missing reprise" for Italian mass retail, but according to the latest "Consumption and Distribution" report penned by Coop - Italy's leader in mass retail with 19.1% market share and 12.7 billion Euros turnover (food & beverages for 80%) - 2015 is going to be the year of "the light at the end of the tunnel". Still, consumption has shrunk almost 20 billion Euros, bringing the sector back a full decade. 2015, though, will be the year where emerging food trends, like organic, vegan, gluten free and so on, will strengthen their position on the market.

For the record

2014 harvests to cast a dark shadow on 2015

According to the Italian farmer association Coldiretti, 2015 will feel the very bad results of a number of harvests in 2014: olive oil will drop 35% in quantity, citrus fruits will

drop 25%, wine will drop 15% and honey should lose almost half its normal production. The cause? In a nutshell, exceedingly bad weather last year.



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