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News



Allegrini celebrates land

One of the most prestigious names of Amarone, Allegrini (www.allegrini.it), has organized a series of conferences titled "Landscapes and Contrasts" to celebrate man's relationship with land, on the eve of the Expo. The second one will feature art historian Philippe Daverio, Gianni Moriani of Ca' Foscari University, sociologist Renzo Guolo, Anna Varzan, specialized in Iran and Islam from Milan University and Michele Campos from the Ghetto of Venice Cooking School. The conference, titled "Food and meals in the age of religious conflicts", will take place next January 22nd at Villa della Torre, the 15th-century heart of the prestigious Amarone winemaker.



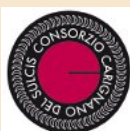
In the vineyards

The latest report on the cost of property in the great wine territories, penned by Knight Frank, tells about a new and important trend. Living among the vineyards is increasingly popular for those who are used to investing in luxury products and services, be it a ranch in California, a Château in Bordeaux or an estate in Tuscany. What makes the difference between these examples is the cost of the vineyards, which make some of these places a dream for all but the wealthiest of the super-rich, since one hectare of vineyards in Bordeaux can cost up to 5 million Euros - and in any case, its not like someone's selling. And that is why the New World has dominated this kind of transaction in 2014: prices in Australia, New Zealand and the U.S. will never reach such heady heights.

Report

The shadow of organized crime

Regular economy might be braking in Italy, but criminal enterprises are apparently having a blast. According to the latest edition of the report on agrifood and crime, penned by farmer association Coldiretti, Eurispes and the "Observatory on crime in agriculture and agrifood", their business has grown 10%, reaching 15.4 billion Euros in value. Agrifood businesses are being used to launder money, also through 5.000 restaurants, bars and so on, but "clean" money is also being funneled in criminal enterprises.



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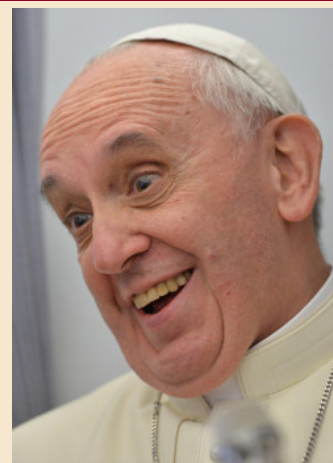
When being a wine critic is not enough

Being a wine critic - reviewing wines, writing guides, handing out prizes, and so on - is apparently not enough anymore. At least, that's how it looks for the big specialist media groups, firms and journalists that create them, since almost invariably, these activities are paired with events, tastings and road shows, either to make ends meet or just to increase business opportunities. The latest example of this trend comes from none other than "The Wine Advocate", which has just launched "Matter of Taste", a series of walk-around tastings of great wines that Robert Parker's tasting team (currently owned by Asian entrepreneurs) has deemed worthy of at least 90 out of 100 points. The events will be available only for subscribers to RobertParker.com, the online version of the magazine. The first two took place in Singapore and Malaysia at the end of 2014 and the next one will be in London, next February 28th, and then the tour will go to Miami, Chicago, Hong Kong, San Francisco and New York. But, this example aside, the fact of the matter is that the profession and business of being a wine critic is evolving, as almost nobody does just that nowadays. And, there are a legion of examples: the "Tre Bicchieri World Tour" by Gambero Rosso; "Wine Experience" by Wine Spectator (which also created Opera Wine in Verona together with Vinality), and the various "Great Wines of" series by James Suckling on Italian wines, Bordeaux and so on, mainly in Asia; not to mention the multiple editions of "Divino Tuscany" in Florence; the many foreign tours of Slow Wine by Slow Food organized with Vinality International or Luca Maroni himself, who every year organizes an event called "I migliori Vini Italiani (formerly "Sense of Wine"), and who will also be at the 2015 edition of Prowein in Dusseldorf. Antonio Galloni will also be among these famous names, especially because since leaving "The Wine Advocate" he has founded "Vinous", a website where his wine reviews are published and through which he creates events and tastings, like he did last year with "Tuscany in the City" in New York. Just to give a few examples...

Focus

Italian wine to be received by the Pope

Some of the most famous names in the Italian wine world - first-tier winemakers like Angelo Gaja and Nicolò Incisa della Rocchetta, but also VIPs "just in" to the world of winemaking, like former Prime Minister Massimo D'Alema and anchorman Bruno Vespa, famous oenologists like Riccardo Cotarella (President of Assoenologi), Donato Lanati, Franco Bernabei and Barbara Tamburini, not to mention academics like Attilio Scienza - will carry the banner of Italian wine to the Holy See next Jan. 21st., when they will be received by His Holiness at the Sala Nervi, a stone's throw from the Basilica of Saint Peter. The meeting will take place thanks to Franco Ricci's Fondazione Italiana Sommelier. The wine press will also attend (among others, WineNews Managing Editor Alessandro Regoli), Vinality General Director Mantovani, the President of Gambero Rosso Paolo Cuccia, Francesca Rocchi, Vice President of Slow Food, ONAV President Vito Intini and FISAR President Mario del Debbio, the Italian Association of Sommeliers and the Worldwide Sommelier Association. After all, His Holiness himself has said, "Without wine, there can be no celebration"...



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Wine & Food

Spain is the world's top wine exporter in volume again

According to the latest data from September 2014, global wine exports have gone up slightly, reaching 25 billion Euros and the threshold of 100 million hectolitres. The trend, back from June, has shown a slight increase in value in the last 12 months, and a markedly bigger growth in volume, which has predictably brought average prices down. Volume-wise, Spain has grown the most according to the latest quarterly data from the Spanish Observatorio Español del Mercado del Vino, while Italy, thanks to sparkling wines, has grown the most in value.

For the record

Conad goes east with 5 outlets

Conad, one of the most important names in Italian mass retail, will open 5 outlets in China next February 19th, with more than 250 Italian products sporting the "Sapori &

Dintorni" and Conad brands (including fresh and frozen products and wines). The project will also include a grand total of 200 vending machines.



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