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News



Bertani Domains to buy Fazi

Following Barolo and Brunello, Verdicchio is the next Italian wine seeing acquisitions in its territory: Fazi Battaglia, a historical brand of Verdicchio - 150 hectares in the area of the castles in Jesi - is apparently about to become part of Bertani Domains, the winemaking group owned by the Angelini family which already owns brands like Cav. G.B. Bertani in Grezzana, Tenuta Novare in Negrar, Puiatti Vigneti in Romans d'Isonzo, Val di Suga in Montalcino, Tre Rose in Montepulciano, San Leonino in Castellina in Chianti and Collepaglia in Jesi. According to Emilio Pedron (pictured above), CEO of Bertani, "there are still a lot of details to iron out, but the decision has been made".



Look out for exports

Exports are keeping the Italian economy afloat; including, of course, important sectors like food and wine, for which 2014 has been a positive year. Growth has been modest, but important all the same, since wine exports have reached a new record in value: 5.1 billion Euros, and the entire agri food sector, 34 billion Euros. Still, one should watch out, because even reassuring numbers like these can harbour bad signs. Wine exports, as Wine Monitor pointed out, are slowing in both Germany and Russia, while "on tap" wine, which is still 30% of all exports, has dropped a full 20% in value - and, according to Italian farmers association CIA, the slowing growth trends should be cause for worry.

Report

Germany loves Italy

Market data states that Italian wine is the darling of the German market, but the acknowledgements the German media has given to Italy at ProWein also state the same. Filippo Mazzei, head of Castello di Fonterutoli, is "Winemaker 2015" for "Der Feinschmecker", Sandro Boscaini - President of Masi Agricola - has been given a lifetime award by printing house Meininger Verlag and Villa Sandi, led by Giancarlo Moretti Polegato, has received the "Prosecco of the Year" award by "Weinwirtschaft".



First Page

"The world's best 100 wines" by Luca Gardini

Italy, counting 40 wines, is the single most represented country in the 2015 edition of the top 100 ranking compiled by Luca Gardini, followed by France, Australia, Argentina, Lebanon, South Africa, the United States, Brazil, Syria and the UK. The ranking has been gaining a lot of pull at an international level, both from aficionados and professionals, like "Wine Spectator" magazine's "Top 100 wines of the year" or "Decanter" magazine's "Top 50 wines of the year". Gardini's ranking was sold together with renowned Italian sports daily "La Gazzetta dello Sport", "since we've been working on them for two years now", Gardini told WineNews. "We have created a weekly page dedicated entirely to wine & food, titled "Gazza Golosa" and curated by Pier Bergonzi and Daniele Miccione, where I use the space I've been given to narrate those Italian wines that have struck us as interesting, playing with emotion, which is the common trait of wine and sports. I've been doing this "Top 100" ranking for four years now", he continued, "first in Italian and English, and starting this year, in French as well, and we will present it at Vinexpo, in Bordeaux. It has gained quite a following, people ask us to send samples from abroad also and that is a good sign, because when producers from Germany, the States, France and so on ask, it means that there is a lot of interest, and this is good for Italy". The ranking is compiled by blind tasting wines, divided by type and considering the latest vintages going on the market. Many an Italian vintner has made this year's edition, like Casanova di Neri, Giuseppe Mascarello & Figlio, Sette Ponti, Dal Forno, Luciano Sandrone, Marisa Cuomo, Vietti, Tenuta San Guido, Le Potazzine, Sottimano, Ettore Germano, Argiolas, Podversic, Ciacci Piccolomini, Polvanera, Barone Ricasoli, La Cerbaiola-Salvioni, Marroneto, Le Piane, Giacomo Conterno, Palari, Ar.Pe.Pe, Valentini, Castello del Terriccio, Tenuta dell'Ornellaia, Tramin, Montenidoli, De Bartoli, Fattoria di Fiorano Fiorano, Massolino, Mazzei, Cortaccia, Cantine Ferrari, Chiappini, Elvio Cagno, Caparra e Siciliani, Di Prisco, Palladino, Marchesi Antinori, Ca' del Bosco, Ronco del Gelso and Paltrinieri.

Focus

"Common sense" is the only rule

When one speaks about wine, oftentimes associating it completely with alcohol, common sense should be the only cardinal rule: this is the conclusion that emerged in an important round table, titled "Alcohol, reason and feeling", promoted by Unione Italiana Vini (UIV) and which took place at the Ministry of Agriculture last week. The age-old question - is wine good or bad for you? - is not that simple, though. It depends on various factors, but perspective is key. As nutritionist Giorgio Calabrese stated, "wine is liquid food, not only alcohol", and as Laura Di Renzo pointed out, "olive oil and wine should be considered both food and medicine". Still, as alcohol expert Marco Faccini stated, "alcohol can be dangerous, but there is a lot of leeway in consumption. Drinking moderately is part of our tradition, and families can educate young people on that front". Finally, Domenico Zonin, at the helm of UIV, said that wine history "should become a subject in middle schools, in order to promote a more healthy approach. It is a cultural challenge, and we have pointed this out to Minister Martina. Wine is the noblest tradition related to land in Italy, and it should be valued as such".



Wine & Food

The most popular Italian wines in the States

When one talks about the most beloved Italian wines in the States, prices and scores are often thrown around, but U.S. caterers are those who really know what happens, as demonstrated in the "Wine & Spirits Magazine" latest "Restaurant Poll". According to the results, the most popular Italian wine brand in the United States is Marchesi Antinori, followed by Ruffino and Santa Margherita. Then come Ornellaia, La Marca, Borgo del Tiglio, Vietti, Monsanto, Gaja, Occhipinti, Masciarelli, Oddero, Scarpetta, Zenato, Venica&Venica, Cantina Terlano, Produttori del Barbaresco, Bertani and Il Colle.

For the record

The Ambassadors of Vinitaly

They have come to Verona from places as diverse as China, the States, Hong Kong and Russia. They are Masters of Wine, Directors of tasting schools and columnists, and

they will soon test their knowledge in order to become "Italian Wine Ambassadors", through the course organized by Vinitaly International Academy.

