



Italian Weekly WineNews.it



Issue 210 - Aug. 3rd-8th, 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



Prosecco for UK newlyweds

As the adage goes, Prosecco is for every occasion and Champagne is for weddings, and it has been used to describe the growing success of the most famous Italian sparkling wine, sometimes to the detriment of its French colleague. It could soon become much less of a truism, since in the UK - which is a trendsetting market, and one of those that has contributed the most to the success of Champagne - Prosecco is increasingly being chosen for weddings, according to a study penned by wine merchant Laithwaites: 2 British couples out of 3 choose it for the most important toast of their life, and only 1 in 12 choose Champagne. The reason? Better price/quality ratio, and an easier drink...



Welcome, Food Act!

Cuisine and food, in Italy, does not mean only catering. On the contrary, it is on one hand the best possible business card for tourists from all corners of the world, and on the other, it is the tip of the enormous pyramid that is wine & food production in our country, unparalleled in its richness and diversity. Our chefs have both the honour and the task to represent the best side of an entire country, but they cannot do so without the support of Institutions. This is why the Food Act - the ten-step plan put forward by the Minister of Education, Stefania Giannini, Minister of Culture, Dario Franceschini and Minister of Agriculture, Maurizio Martina, together with 40 top-level chefs like Marchesi and Bottura - might well be the right answer to the call of a sector that has yet to reach its full potential.

Report

SIMEI goes to Germany

SIMEI, the leading trade fair for wine-related technologies (a sector that sees Italy as its most important player) promoted by Unione Italiana Vini, is becoming an international affair, thanks to the partnership with Messe München's Drinktec fair. It will alternate between Munich and Italy in each of its editions: every 2 years, it will be hosted at the German fair, and the other way around, with an agreement that "has never been seen before on international markets", as UIV President Domenico Zonin commented.



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First Page

ISMEA: prices down for IGPs, stable for DOPs

According to a recent report penned by ISMEA, the trust index of Italian winemakers has gone down 8.1% in Q2 2015 compared to Q1: the reason is that export volumes have gone down 2% between January and April, but value has gone up 6%. What worries Italian vintners the most, the report states, is prices of common wines, which have been engaged in a race to the bottom from the competition of their Spanish counterparts. And, the fact that a lot of forecasts indicate higher quantities for the 2015 harvest compared to last year's, both in Italy and in Spain, does not help. Data regarding IGP wines is not good either, since their value has gone down 12% for whites, and 4% for reds. On the other hand, there is good news about DOC and DOCG wines, with value going up 2% for whites and 6% for reds. According to the WineNews analysis of the data contained in the report, some of the most important denomination wines in Italy have gone up more than 10%: Brunello di Montalcino reaching 890 Euros per 100 kilograms (up 18.1% year-over-year), followed by Amarone della Valpolicella, (875 Euros per 100 kilos) and Barolo (726 Euros, a 3.8% increase). Nobile di Montepulciano (392 Euros and 29.8% increase) is in fourth place, followed by Alto Adige Lagrein (340 Euros), Barbaresco (333 Euros and 20.1% increase) and Valpolicella Classico (250 Euros and 2.7% increase), Valpolicella (240 Euros, up 4.3%), Trento Pinot Nero (230 Euros, up 9.9%) and, closing the top 10, Chianti Classico at 226 Euros, with "Black Rooster" wines growing the most, up 31.2%. Alto Adige is king of the hill for whites, with Alto Adige Traminer at 450 Euros per 100 kilograms, followed by Alto Adige Pinot Bianco (261 Euros), and Alto Adige Pinot Grigio (255 Euros, and 3.3% increase). Then comes more Alto Adige, with Terlano Pinot Bianco (252 Euros, up 5.2%) and Chardonnay (holding at 232 Euros). Cortese di Gavi is in 6th position, at 226 Euros (40% increase), followed by Prosecco di Conegliano e Valdobbiadene (217 Euros, up 6.4%). The top 10 ends with Trento, at 180 Euros per 100 kilograms, Trentino Pinot Grigio and Valdadige Pinot Grigio, both at 167 Euros and 1.5% increase.

Focus

First numbers of the 2015 harvest

In the last few years, more than once in Italy, the first bunches of the earliest variety wine grapes have been harvested at the beginning of August or even at the end of July, and the scorching 2015 summer is no exception. The harvest is already in full swing in Sicily's "Menfshire" region and in Franciacorta. According to some of the country's top oenologists, the lion's share of the harvest could indeed come a little earlier than usual, but it should be nothing to write home about. Some - like the farmers association Coldiretti - have said from Franciacorta's Coccaglio, "the harvest has not started this early in the last 10 years. Production should go up at least 5% in quantity over 2015, reaching 44 million hectolitres, and quality should be very good". Farmers association Confagricoltura has recently gone one further, speaking of a 15% increase compared to 2014 and very good quality. Needless to say, these forecasts could well be completely turned upside down because of the weather, but of course, nobody is hoping for that. Maybe, as Italian Federation of Independent Vintners FIVI has said, it would be better if grapes were in the cellars before talking about the harvest...



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Wine & Food

SPI Group to acquire Spanish winemaker Arinzano

SPI Group, the Luxembourg-based multinational founded by Yuri Shefler and famous for its Stolichnaya and Moskovskaya vodka brands, has shifted its attention from spirits to wine, with its recent acquisition of Spanish winery Arinzano, counting 355 hectares of land. The firm will be part of the new wine division of the group, Hew Holding Bv, which already holds shares in some of the top names of global wine, like Achaval Ferrer, Tuscan Tenuta dell'Ornellaia in Bolgheri and Castelgiocondo and Luce della Vite in Montalcino, through a joint-venture with Frescobaldi and Mondavi.

For the record

"Le Figaro" honours Langhe, Cinque Terre

According to an article penned by Manuel Peyronnet, best sommelier of France in 2008, and published by French daily "Le Figaro", two Italian regions are in the top five of the

world's most beautiful vineyards, namely Piedmont's Langhe and Liguria's Cinque Terre, together with the Douro Valley, Santorini and Côte d'or.

