



## News



### Allegrini & Ca' del Bosco

Gambero Rosso's "Winery of the Year" award, the special prize given in the 2016 "Vini d'Italia" guide, has gone to Valpolicella's Allegrini (owner of wineries in other top territories like San Polo in Montalcino and Poggio al Tesoro in Bolgheri). The news, which WineNews has anticipated, precedes the usual weeklong drip of news regarding the regional lists of the "Three Glasses" prizes. The guide will officially be presented next Oct. 17th, and in the meantime, one can kill time with the "Sparkling of the Year", Franciacorta Riserva Vintage Collection Dosage Zéro Noir 2006 Ca' del Bosco (pictured above, Marilisa Allegrini and Maurizio Zanella).



### What people search for

It might not be the single most traded wine around, but it is not surprising to see that on the Liv-Ex Château Mouton Rothschild is the most searched for wine, together with other traditional great names from France like Lafite Rothschild, Haut Brion, Latour and Margaux, and Cheval Blanc is at number 10. As far as Italian wines go, though, there are some interesting things to note: Sassicaia has gone up 4 spots, to number 24, Masseto is at spot number 48 and Ornellaia, at spot number 49, is one of the six new entries of the top 50 most searched for wines on the online benchmark index. The ranking, of course, is not representative of the economic footprint of these wines, both in terms of volume and value, but it does say something about the tastes of consumers around the world.

## Report

### Bottura goes to Cuba?

From the "red" region of Emilia to Fidèl Castro's Cuba - the connection is not political, but rather the cuisine of Massimo Bottura. Rumours have it that he might be opening an activity in what, according to many, will be one of the future's most important tourist destinations together with Enrique Olvera of Pujol, in Mexico City, and Andoni Luis Aduriz of Mugaritz, in San Sebastian, Spain. The project, called "Pasta, pinchos y tacos", is still "a work in progress", Bottura commented.



## First Page

### Gambero Rosso's 2016 "Vini d'Italia" guide

The lists of wines that have received Gambero Rosso's fabled "Three Glasses" in the 2016 edition of its famous wine guide are yet to come, but WineNews can anticipate some awards. At the top one still finds the great territories of Italian red wines - Barolo, Valpolicella, Chianti Classico and Montalcino at the very top. Montalcino, thanks to its 2010 vintage, which many are hailing as one of the most excellent in recent history, has managed to snag no less than 18 "Three Glasses". The volcanic region of Etna also received the confirmation of its top-tier status, since the "Red of the Year" (Etna Rosso V. Barbagalli 2012 Pietradolce) comes from there. Going over to white wines, the most awarded uniformly come from the usual top Italian territories, like Soave in Veneto, Marche's Verdicchio, and Friuli Venezia Giulia (where the "White of the Year", Collio Friulano 2014 Schiopetto, comes from). Campania apparently has done very well too. Regarding sparklings, Franciacorta is the single most awarded denomination, followed by the "mountain bubbles" of Trentodoc. The "Five Stars" (the most awarded winemakers and winemaking groups), with 3 "Three Glasses" apiece, are Paolo Panerai with Domini di Castellare (Castellare di Castellina, Feudi del Pisciotto and Rocca di Frassinello), Claudio Tipa, at the helm of the ColleMassari group (Poggio di Sotto, Grattamacco and ColleMassari), Gruppo Italiano Vini (Nino Negri, Cavicchioli and Terre degli Svevi - Re Manfredi), Antonio Moretti (Tenuta Setteponti, Cantina Orma and Feudo Maccari) and Zonin 1821 (Castello d'Albola, Rocca di Montemassi and Principi di Butera, in Sicily). Going over to the inventors of many awarded wines, the three most important oenologists boasting the most prizes for their creations are Riccardo Cotarella, Carlo Ferrini and Giuseppe Caviola. Finally, when it comes to winemaking VIPs, longtime anchorman and journalist Bruno Vespa received "Three Glasses" for the first time, with his Primitivo di Manduria Raccontami 2013 (Futura 14). No such luck, instead, for former Prime Minister Massimo D'Alema (La Madeleine, in Umbria) and pop singer Al Bano (Tenute Al Bano Carrisi, in Apulia).

## Focus

### A "plentiful", great 2015 harvest

With a few tons of white grapes harvested from Franciacorta to Sicily, some territories are seeing their first early red grape varieties follow the same path as the 2015 harvest is shaping up. Of course, the weather could still change things, but according to Italian oenologists association Assoenologi, led by President Riccardo Cotarella and by General Director Giuseppe Martelli, "it will be no sooner than when at least 5 to 10% of total production has been harvested". According to the latest estimates, quantity should go up 10% over 2014 (one of the scarcest vintages ever) for a production of about 46-47 million hectolitres - much higher than the 2005-2014 average of 45.5 million. Veneto should harvest 9.1 million, up 10%, followed by Emilia Romagna (7.3 million, up 5%), Apulia (up 25%) and Sicily with 5 million (up 10%). These 4 regions should make up no less than 60% of the total national grape production. Right behind them should come Piedmont (up 10%), Tuscany (down 5%), Abruzzi (up 5%), Lazio and Umbria (collectively up 15%), Friuli (up 10%), Lombardy, Campania (up 20%), Trentino (up 15%), Sardinia and finally Valle d'Aosta, Liguria, Molise, Basilicata and Calabria (all up 10%).



## Wine & Food

### French TGV trains choose Friuli's Collio

A French excellence, the hi-speed TGV (Train à Grande Vitesse) train lines, has chosen the fields and vineyards of Collio, one of the most interesting white wine territories in Italy, for one of their advertising campaigns. The ad, shot on the road to Angorìs, will star the Anglo-Lebanese singer Mika. Even though the project is not fully fledged, it is still unusual and noteworthy that France, boasting breath-stopping wine landscapes from Burgundy to Reims, in Champagne, is advertising its trains using the Italian areas of Collio and Goriska Brda.

## For the record

### When food unites cultures

Last Tuesday, for the first time, leaders of 11 of the world's most important religions have collectively blessed the food given from participating countries before sharing

them, and signed the "Treaty of Milan": a sure-fire demonstration of the power that food has when it comes to crossing cultural boundaries.

