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News



“La Ciau” new wine cellar

“La Ciau del Tornavento”, a Michelin-starred restaurant since 1997 located in Treiso, Piedmont, has inaugurated its new wine cellar, and it is truly something to behold, with 67.000 bottles, 2.899 labels and 13 nations. Particular attention is given to the venue's homeland Langhe, Barolo and Barbaresco, while featuring the most important Italian and international names, and wines from countries as diverse as France, Argentina, Australia, California, Chile and Uruguay (pictured above, chef Maurilio Garola). Only the 80.000 bottles of the 3-starred Enoteca Pinchiorri in Florence probably “rival” the Piedmontese restaurant's wine list.



Gambero Rosso goes public

It is now official: Gambero Rosso is going to go public. Rumours have been going around for some time now, as WineNews previously reported last May, but now President Paolo Cuccia has confirmed in writing the soon-to-come listing on the AIM index, dedicated to small firms. Gambero Rosso aims to collect around 7 million Euros from the listing, by selling their shares to “professional investors, retail agents and private individuals. We will use them to strengthen the many activities that we've been undertaking for years now in favour of “Made in Italy” food and wine”. The sale of shares started last Tuesday will end on the 24th and will be supervised by Banca Popolare di Vicenza (whose President, Gianni Zonin, is at the helm of the largest private firm of Italian wine, Zonin 1821).

Report

2015 wine production

According to the results of an on-the-field survey conducted by Unione Italiana Vini (UIV), ISMEA and the Ministry for Agricultural Affairs, national wine production should hover around 47 million hectolitres, 12% more than the 42 million in 2014. Of course, caution must be taken when estimates are communicated, and September will be crucial, weather-wise. Should the estimate be true, Italy would get the crown of producing countries, since France's estimates hover around 46.5 million and Spain around 43 million.



First Page

A chat with Slow Food's Carlin Petrini

Half a century ago the Italian countryside was densely populated, and there were no foreigners. Today, it's been depopulated, and many of its inhabitants are foreigners. “When I see the villages of the Langhe area at 15-20% of foreigners, I feel that we have the duty to guarantee integration, so that natives do not feel invaded and newcomers do not feel emarginated. This is the recipe for civilization”. Carlin Petrini, during a chat with WineNews, has decided this is the way to deal with the situation - as usual, the conversation ranged from the culture of food to the odyssey of migrants (“a broadcasted catastrophe, at the indifference of all”), to the wine & food sector, which is clearly healthy, and which can give an adequate answer to the need for integration. Petrini is still fighting his war against illegal work, something that “must be reported to authorities immediately. Nobody can consider himself above the law, or point fingers somewhere else. I'll be among the most vehement enemies of all those who profit from this, even if we've been friends for years”. Paradoxically, the countries of Europe, Asia and Africa all congregated at the Expo, which is about to close, “but food has not been treated with respect, and there haven't been any discussions about the really big problems, like the shame of world hunger. I'm happy for my country, since we've reached positive results, but one should think about what will come after. I feel that there's a void of ideas, projects and vision, and this is terrible”. Soon, though, “Terra Madre Giovani”, the great Slow Food Event in Milan, will take place (Oct. 3rd-6th): “We have given food, travel expenses and room and board to at least 1500 young people, which is a noteworthy number. They are the new leaders. What is the challenge of the century? It is about governing limits, and not only for agriculture”. For example, “Choices for growing are also a matter of returns: grapes, for instance, give back a lot and tend to expand”. And that, Petrini told us, “is enough”, even though “one should always focus on growers as well as chefs, otherwise it's food pornography”. Is a return to the land really happening? “Yes, but it is still too slow”.

Focus

A movie about the “Lord of Barolo”

Piedmont has doubled down on cinema to tell its story to the world, and after “Langhe Doc”, “Nascetta Story” and the recent “Barolo Boys. History of a Revolution”, a new movie is coming out to tell the tale of one of the most important protagonists of Piedmont wine: Renato Ratti, one of the real innovators of Barolo. Ratti was a trailblazer when it came to the concept of crus and zoning, but he was also a man of deep culture and rare perception, an unstoppable communicator and the promoter of many successful initiatives, who lived his life in Brazil as well as in Italy. “He was on the frontline when the procedural guidelines were written; he was the godfather of some historical promotional initiatives; he wrote the first map of the great vineyards of Langhe (pictured right) and created the Ratti Museum of Alba wines. In little more than two decades, he was like a whirlwind through the hills of Langhe, until he passed away before his time at 54”, reads a document from independent filmmaking firm, Suffilm. The movie will be directed by Fabio Mancari and Tiziano Gaia (who also directed “Barolo Boys” with Paolo Casali), and is due out at the end of this year.



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Wine & Food

Italy and Wine Enthusiast's 2015 Wine Star Awards

There's loads of Italy in the nominations of “Wine Enthusiast's 2015 Wine Star Awards”. Among them are Marilisa Allegrini, at the helm of Allegrini Estates (Valpolicella, Bolgheri and Montalcino) as “Person of the Year”, Ferrari, the historic name of Italian sparkling owned by the Lunelli family, in the “European Winery of the Year” category, and the “Wine Trainers” Simonit & Sirch as “Innovator/Executive of the Year”, who are internationally regarded as two of the utmost experts of grape pruning and are employed, among others, by none other than Chateau d'Yquem.

For the record

The “Giro” goes to Chianti Classico

The “Giro d'Italia”, the most famous bike race in our country, will once more crisscross the wine-tinted hills of Italy. It recently passed through Montalcino (in 2010), Barolo and

Barbaresco (2014) and Prosecco (2015), this year the race will go through the heart of Chianti Classico, with a time trial from Radda to Greve in Chianti.

