



News



"The Wine Advocate", a team

"Today 'The Wine Advocate' is not just me alone, but rather, it is a team: the complexity of the global wine world", Robert Parker explained to WineNews, "has grown, and countries like Italy have grown as well, which is why they deserve more and better coverage. That's why we have Monica Larner here, competently and independently covering Italy full-time. Before her, our coverage of Italy was good, but not exceptional". Parker also described his decision to sell the majority stake of his magazine to Asian investors. "The offer from Singapore was not the highest, but it was the most interesting. And I'm convinced that the future of wine is in Asia".

First Page

Italy for Robert Parker, as told to WineNews

Italy's best wines go toe to toe with France, quality-wise. But Italy has to believe, and must create an "Ego" for itself, not with arrogance, but knowing what it can do, and market itself more efficiently and tangibly, first and foremost by betting on its unique heritage of indigenous grape varieties, which no other country can compete with. This, in a nutshell, is what Robert Parker - quite simply the most influential wine critic of the entire world, founder of "The Wine Advocate", inventor of modern wine criticism, the 100-points system and one of the biggest contributors to the success of Bordeaux wines - told WineNews in an exclusive interview. Today, due to an ever more globalized wine world, and not only when it comes to the market, he is no more a "one man band", but rather the moral guide of a team of professionals each focusing on specific areas in the world, like Monica Larner, correspondent of the magazine for Italy. Moreover, Italy (and more specifically Tuscany) has recently hosted an exclusive master class of the magazine, led by both Parker and Larner and dedicated to Italy's very best wines. Which, of course, includes Sassicaia 1985, "the wine I have enjoyed the most in my 37 year-long career", he said. One of those wines that, according to Parker - who did not visit any winemakers during this trip to Italy - has brought Italy on an even keel with France. The two "are the historical homelands of wine in the world", he explained, "and their products are and will be role models for those who want to make wine, especially in the 'new world'. This will never change. Italy", he added, "is the country with the most indigenous grape varieties in Western Europe, and this is a strength, one that must be respected and safeguarded. The work that has been done in Italy with those, especially in the South, offers the biggest diversity and variety of wine in the world. And I think that one of the great pleasures, one of the biggest joys that wine gives is exactly the discovery of diversity, and that is why it must be protected. In my career, one of the most beautiful things that I've seen is the proliferation of indigenous varieties, especially in Italy, which is the leading country".

Focus

Markets, critics and scores

"When I began using the 100-points system, back in 1978", Robert Parker told WineNews, "I created it at a personal level and I had no idea that the system would be adopted almost everywhere in the world. I invented it and it made sense to me, in order to give the reader my point of view. It's important to talk about the history and the territory of a wine, but the scoring system is like a stick in the ground that tells the reader how much that wine is worth, in my opinion. It's a "democratic" system that has perfectly fulfilled the task that I had in mind. That said, I have always also said that the best taster, the best palate, is not me, but "you". Every palate is different, and this makes wine tasting a personal matter. At the same time, though, I do admit that there is subjectivity in judgment, but there is also a convergence of consensus on what a good wine is, like it happens with music and art. Taste, though, does evolve all the time. Today, at least in the United States, wines tailored for younger consumers are taking hold; wines that have good potential and that can gratify the consumer without having to age. Is this good or bad? This is not for me to say".



Mission accomplished

The objective of the "Vino - A Taste of Italy" pavilion, the very first one dedicated to the wine world in the history of Universal Expositions, was to fascinate and engage the public with the culture of Italian wine, the tradition of the country once known as Enotria, and the goal was reached. The pavilion, which both the Ministry for Agriculture and Vinitaly strongly insisted on, has been visited by 2.1 million people, offered no less than 3.600 different wines, for a total of 150.000 bottles and 800.000 tastings, engaging 2.000 winemakers in more than 500 events and conferences. This success was highlighted by the Class Expo Pavilion Heritage Award for best pavilion of a single food product, given to "Vino - A Taste of Italy" this week in Milan - and is most probably not going to end with the end of this Expo.

Report

Tignanello for charity

Since 2005, the Grand Cru Culinary Wine Festival in Toronto has been gathering some of the very best cuisine and wines in a charity auction to fund scientific and medical research. In the past decade, it has raised 18.2 million Dollars for the programs of Toronto General Hospital, Toronto Western Hospital and the University Health Network. This year, 5 Methuselah bottles of Antinori's Tignanello (vintages 2007 to 2011) were among the lots and sold for 26.000 Dollars, including a visit to the winery.



Wine & Food

Italy and Wine Enthusiast's Top 100 Cellar Selections

20 Italian vintners have been chosen for the 2015 edition of the "Top 100 Cellar Selections" by the American magazine Wine Enthusiast, whose Italian correspondent is Kerin O'Keefe. The first Italian, at number 2, is Il Marroneto Brunello di Montalcino 2010 Madonna delle Grazie, followed by Mascarello Barolo 2010 Monprivato (at 5) and by Tenuta San Guido Sassicaia 2012 (at 8). Then come Gaja, Roagna, Massolino, Vallana, Attilio Ghisolfi, Conti Costanti, Villa Cafaggio, Sandrone, Rizzi, Passo Pisciaro, Ugo Lequio, Contucci, Biondi Santi, Antinori, Arnaldo Caprai, Villa Raiano and Monteraponi.

For the record

The laurels of Gaja and Ferrari

The US magazine "Wine Enthusiast" 2015 Wine Star Awards have been given to Angelo Gaja, recipient of the "Lifetime Achievement Wine Star" award for its role as a pioneer

of the quality revolution of Italian wine, and to Ferrari, the winemaker from Trentino, who received the "European Winery of the Year" award.

