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News



Ornellaia's "Archivio Storico"

Ornellaia, one of the most important Italian wines, has decided to share the contents of its most precious storage rooms in Bolgheri, containing the vintages that are truly historic. These bottles will soon be available to collectors the world over, thanks to the "Ornellaia Archivio Storico" project, created together with the auction house Sotheby's, which will auction a very small quantity of rare vintages that have been stored in the most ideal conditions by the vintner. It is a first for Ornellaia, and for this year's edition of the "Archivio" vintages 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2004 and 2006 - all approved by Master of Wine Serena Sutcliffe - will go under the hammer.



Vinitaly's "5 Star Wines"

From this year on, the traditional Vinitaly Wine Awards will give way to its "5 Star Wines" Awards. The new awards will be given by an international panel of jurors - assembled by Veronafiere and led by Ian D'Agata, among Masters of Wine, journalists and prestigious sommeliers - only to those wines that have scored 90 points or higher, and their quality will be certified through a symbol to be put on the bottle itself, both a marketing tool and a mark of excellence for producers in order to catch the consumer's eye, the quite crowded aisles of supermarkets and wine shops. The symbol itself, Veronafiere said in a note, "will be a modern and geometric logo, a stylised version of the Verona Arena".

Report

Wine forgery in Europe

Italian wine is increasingly being targeted by forgers around the world, and sometimes, it happens quite close to home, so to speak: 200 bottles of fake Brunello di Montalcino Tenuta Fanti and 250 of fake Amarone della Valpolicella were recently seized by the State Forestry Guard in Copenhagen, Denmark, in a restaurant's storage room. No Italian seems to be implicated in the investigation so far, and the wine is suspected to be Spanish, but an official analysis is still to be conducted.



First Page

The 2016 previews of Italy's top wines

With the holidays gone, Italian wine is gearing up for this year's round of previews of its most important denominations, and the first one is going to be "Anteprima Amarone", Jan. 30th-31st, at Palazzo della Gran Guardia in Verona, with the 2012 vintage of the most important wine in that territory. Then, right after the Toscana Promozione "Buy Wine" event (Feb. 12th-13th), where buyers from around the world will meet with vintners of the Grand Duchy, comes the "Tuscan Wine Week". On February 13th, Morellino di Scansano, Montecucco, Vini di Cortona, Carmignano, Valdarno di Sopra, Bianco di Pitigliano e Sovana, Colline Lucchesi and Maremma will be showcased in Florence. Then, on Valentine's Day, "Anteprima Chianti Lovers 2016" will take place also in Florence, with 2015 Chianti and the 2013 Riserva, followed by the 2016 "Chianti Classico Collection" (Feb. 15th-16th, Stazione Leopolda) with 2015, 2014 vintages and the 2013 Riserva and Gran Selezione. On February 17th (the 14th for professionals), "Anteprima Vernaccia" will take place in San Gimignano, with the 2015 vintage and the 2014 Riserva, and on the 18th "Anteprima Nobile di Montepulciano" will be on for professionals (on the 14th and 15th for the general public), with Nobile di Montepulciano 2013 and Riserva 2012. Then comes "Benvenuto Brunello" (Feb. 19th-22nd, Montalcino) with Brunello di Montalcino 2011 and the 2010 Riserva. After Tuscany it will be Umbria's turn, with "Anteprima Sagrantino" (Feb. 22nd-23rd), 2012 vintage of Montefalco Sagrantino, followed by the 2015 vintage of Charetto, Lugana and Bardolino (Lazise, March 6th-7th) and a retrospective of 2014. It will then be the South's turn, with "Campania Stories" (Benevento, March 29th-April 4th) and the very best of the Campania wines, followed by "Sicilia en Primeur" 2016 in Sciacca. Finally, in May, "Nebbiolo Prima" will take place in Alba from May 3rd to the 9th, with Barolo 2012 and Riserva 2010, Barbaresco 2013 and Riserva 2011 and Roero 2013 and Riserva 2012, followed by "Soave Preview" (Monforte d'Alpone, May 19th-20th), with the 2015 vintage of Soave and older vintages as well.

Focus

Wine, food & e-commerce in Italy

E-commerce transactions in Italy were worth 16.6 billion Euros in 2015, up 2.2 billion year-over-year, reaching 4% of all retail consumption, with 1.1 million frequent clients (at least one purchase per month) and an average check of 89 Euros, according to the latest data from the eCommerce B2c Observatory created by the School of Management of the Polytechnic University in Milan and Netcomm. And, even though "traditional" e-commerce sectors like tourism, apparel, consumer electronics and books have driven this growth, the food & grocery sector has reached 370 million Euros, 2% of all online shopping. After all, one bottle of wine is being sold every 8 and a half minutes on the eBay wine & food platform Gusto, while Tannico, the biggest online wine shop in Italy, ships over 35.000 bottles per month. During 2015, furthermore, a lot of wine & food firms have decided to pursue a multi-channel strategy for their sales, either through their own online stores or third-party marketplaces, like Amazon, eBay or ePrice - which are particularly important from the point of view of exports, since they have grown 22%, reaching 3 billion Euros.



Wine & Food

More acquisitions, expansions in Tuscany's top terroirs

Rumours, overheard by WineNews, have it that a German entrepreneur has acquired Podere Salicutti, one of the quality "gems" in the Montalcino, founded by Francesco Leanza in 1994 and with 3.7 hectares of vineyards (2.1 of those for Brunello), for an undisclosed sum, estimated to be around 3 to 4 million Euros. Meanwhile, Conte Ferdinando Guicciardini - whose ancestor, Francesco Guicciardini, wrote the famous "Historia d'Italia" in Medicean times in Florence - has bought Fattoria di Belvedere in Campoli, with 8.5 hectares of vineyards in the heart of Chianti Classico.

For the record

More searches in Friuli

This week, Italian police authorities have conducted searches of 14 wineries producing Sauvignon in Friuli Venezia Giulia, since they've had dealings with the oenologist that, according to the local DA, has created artificial means for enriching a wine's aroma. With this, the DA's office stated, "the investigation part is all but over".

