



News



Argentiera speaks Austrian

According to WineNews rumours, a young Austrian entrepreneur has acquired Tenuta Argentiera, one of the most beautiful estates on the Tuscan coast of Bolgheri (500 hectares, and 75 for vineyards), by buying the majority stake of the firm from brothers Corrado and Marcello Fratini (Fingen Group), but keeping the current management - including Managing Director Federico Zileri, also President of the Bolgheri Denomination, where one hectare is worth 350 to 500.000 Euros. It is one of the very few that produces mono-varietal "crus", Bolgheri Superiore Giorgio Bartholomäus (Merlot), Ophelia Maria (Cabernet Sauvignon) and Lavinia Maria (Cabernet Franc).



Vinitaly to honour Tachis

According to WineNews rumours, Giacomo Tachis - one of the godfathers of modern Italian wine, and the first author of the Italian wine Renaissance - is going to be one of the two recipients of the "Vinitaly International Prize", created by Veronafiere in 1996 and routinely awarded to protagonists or firms, foreign or Italian, that have left their mark on the world of wine. Moreover, his daughter, Ilaria Tachis, will receive the prize during the April 9th Gala Dinner that will take place right before Vinitaly opens its doors, for the first time inside the Arena of Verona, and Carlo Cracco will be head chef. It will undoubtedly be a unique evening and a very special prize to honour one of the true protagonists of modern wine in Italy.

Report

Vinitaly "opens" on Amazon

The Vinitaly Wine Club store has officially opened on Amazon, the biggest online retailer on the planet. Starting this week, on the Italian version of the portal (www.amazon.it/vinitaly) one can find over 500 vintners, 300 denominations and 700 wines from all over Italy, ready to be bought. Amazon, together with Twitter, Google, Facebook and eBay, will also participate in the seminars of the "World Wine Web" program at Vinitaly, promoted by the Ministry for Agriculture.



First Page

Italian wine "healthy", says Mediobanca

Italian wine has outperformed national economy in its entirety during 2015 as well, according to an official study on the sector conducted by the Study Centre of Italian merchant bank Mediobanca. Taking 2010 as a benchmark, and a turnover of 100 points, the turnover of Italian wine in 2014 reached 131.6 points, and wine exports reached 146.6 points. The data was obtained analysing the balance sheets of over 136 firms, including cooperatives, with a turnover of over 25 million Euros and a combined 2014 turnover of over 6.2 billion Euros, representing 59.4% production-wise. Turnover has grown 4.8% in 2015 over 2014, with exports going up 6.5% and domestic sales growing 3.1%. And, even if 2015 has not been a good year for growth in the wine sector, its sales have still gone up 31.6% over 2010, exports have shot up 46.6% and domestic turnover has gone up 18.7%. Cantine Riunite-GIV is the top private firm for turnover, totalling 547 million Euros (up 2.7% year-over-year), followed by Caviro (down 4.4% to 200 million) and Antinori (up 8.7%, to 202 million). Then follow Zonin (up 14.3%, to 183 million), Mezzacorona (up 2.1%, to 175 million), Campari's wine division (down 18.2% to 171 million), Cavit (up 1.9%, to 167 million), Fratelli Martini (up 1.2%, to 162 million), Botter (up 12.5%, to 154 million), and Italian Wine Brands (up 4%, to 145 million Euros). Region-wise, Veneto and Tuscany are the top performers for return on capital (11.6% and 6.2%), and return on investments (9.9% and 7.5%), exports inclination (58.2% and 65.8%) and high productivity (100.000 and 79.000 Euros per employee). Overall, then, the situation looks positively healthy for Italian wine, as it does for wine all over the world, as the "World Index of the Wine Sector" created by Mediobanca revealed, which has grown 449% since 2001, clearly outperforming all international stock exchanges (up 86%). It depends on the country, though. In the States, wine has earned 7 times more than national exchanges, in France almost twice that, in Australia 65% more and 35% more in Spain. In China and Chile, on the other hand, wine has underperformed national exchanges up to 50% less.

Focus

50 years of appreciation for Italy's vineyards

In the last fifty years the value of one hectare of vineyards for Brunello has gone up 2.474% and Amarone has gone up 1.357%, followed by Barbaresco (257%), Barolo (206%) and Chianti Classico (up 129%), according to WineNews analysis for Vinitaly, dedicated to the process of appreciation that has enveloped the most important Italian wine denominations 50 years after their birth and 50 years after the first edition of what is the most important event for Italian wine in the world. Back in 1966, according to the official ISTAT coefficients for the actualization of values, one hectare of vineyards, or where vines could be planted, of Brunello was worth a mere 1.8 million Liras, equivalent to 15.537,15 Euros and today, it's worth 400.000 Euros. Likewise, one hectare of Amarone della Valpolicella was worth 3.5 million Liras (34.320,89 Euros), and today it's worth 500.000 Euros; Barbaresco was worth 10 million Liras (98.059,67 Euros), and is now worth 350.000 Euros; Barolo was worth 15 million Liras (147.089,51 Euros), and today it's worth 400.000 Euros and finally, one hectare in Chianti Classico was worth 8 million Liras (78.447,74 Euros), but today, it is worth 180.000 Euros.



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MONTEFALCO SAGRANTINO



Wine & Food

From Italy to the U.S. with Wine Spectator and "Opera Wine"

Vinitaly 2016 (April 10th-13th) will make Verona the worldwide capital of Italian wine once more, but the States are still the main market for Italian wine exports (1.4 billion Dollars in 2015), which is why Wine Spectator magazine will once again organize "Opera Wine" with Vinitaly on April 9th, including 101 Italian winemakers. It is also the reason why the magazine will get its "Grand Tour" on the road once more in the States (New York on April 26th, Washington DC, on the 28th, and Las Vegas, on the 30th) with 240 top wines and 1 every 4 coming from Italy.

For the record

Caprai turns to social media to raise funds

Umbrian winemaker Caprai is turning to social media to raise funds to complete the restoration of the Benozzo Gozzoli frescoes in the Church of Saint Francis in

Montefalco, with a limited edition of 6 bottles of Montefalco Sagrantino Docg Vigna del Lago 2012, available online on their site, and a hashtag that reads #caprai4love.

