

News



Italy and Wine Lister

A new index, called "Wine Lister", judges wines based on three factors - "brand" (presence on global markets and popularity), "quality" (scores) and "economics" (prices and producers' liquidity): the max score is 1000. Among Italian wines, Barolo Monfortino Riserva Giacomo Conterno is closest to the top, with 973 points, followed by Brunello di Montalcino Case Basse (Soldara), at 953, Barolo Cascina Francia Giacomo Conterno (952), Sassicaia Tenuta San Guido (951), Le Pergole Torte Monteverdine (948), Langhe Nebbiolo Sperss Gaja (946), Ornellaia Tenuta dell'Ornellaia (945), Tignanello Marchesi Antinori (941) together with Masseto, and Barolo Bartolo Mascarello (930).



Vinexpo & Gambero Rosso

Wine trade and wine promotion are a global endeavour nowadays: business is business, and results are everything. This is why the most important French wine fair, Vinexpo, has not only chosen Italy to be its guest of honour at Vinexpo Hong Kong, but has also bet on a partnership with one of Italy's very best "Made in Italy" wine & food brands - publishing group Gambero Rosso. It will entail lots of tastings and master classes. "I hope this is but the beginning of a great partnership", Guillaume Deglise, General Director of Vinexpo, told WineNews, "since we have a very pleasant relationship with them, and I hope that we will do many more things together". "The collaboration", added Gigi Salerno of Gambero Rosso, "was certainly a positive one".

Report

A high-rise restaurant

A new high-level gourmet restaurant will open its doors in Turin today: it is called "Piano 35", and it is a venue housed on the 35th floor, the top floor of the Intesa Sanpaolo Bank's plate glass and white steel skyscraper, created by globally renowned architect Renzo Piano, surrounded by an organic greenhouse. The restaurant, together with lounge bar on the 37th floor and the Chiccotosto coffee shop on the ground floor, will be "Italy's highest wine & food system", spanning a hair below 500 feet.



First Page

Italy picks up the pace in Asia after Vinexpo HK

Italy was the guest of honour and the second largest country (16% of 60.000 square meters, behind France's 39%) at the Vinexpo Hong Kong Trade Fair that took place this week, and its sails are filled with some comforting numbers regarding exports to China in 2016 (according to Chinese customs data, they grew 7% in volume and 15.3% in value). More than 270 big and small Italian winemakers attended, to try and collectively reach faster-growing competitors there, such as France, Australia and Chile, which was necessary indeed, since according to an International Wine & Spirits Research study penned for the trade fair, Asia is going to become an ever more important wine market globally in the near future. The Asia-Pacific area, the study concludes, has consumed 264.3 million cases of wine in 2014 (up 18.4% over 2010), and will grow a further 5.2% by no later than 2019. The good news is, Italy is increasingly advancing as a single entity in the area, and interest for Italian wines is definitely going up there: the bad news, though, is that for Asian consumers Italy still lacks a region that can be a brand in itself, a "banner" of sorts, like Bordeaux is for France. But, as Guillaume Deglise, General Director of Vinexpo, told WineNews in an interview, "Due to this focus on Italy, we have seen a lot more firms at the fair in the last two years, and many events were targeted towards your country, such as the conference with James Suckling on the potential of Italian wine in Asia. One must get across the message that Italy has an important culture regarding food, cuisine, art, wine and tourism, because for many Chinese consumers, Italy is a sort of "province" of France". And, Vinexpo aims to strengthen its bond with Italy, also through a recent partnership with publishing group Gambero Rosso. Still, since Chinese consumers largely choose based on brand and price, Italy has a few issues, but "the market is changing", Deglise pointed out: "they are becoming more curious and open, and on the whole consumption is becoming healthier and more widespread, so your country has great opportunities in China in the near future".

Focus

Sandro Chia's Barolo for Joe Bastianich

"I thought about working on the theme of fabrics", said Sandro Chia, Maestro of the Transavanguardia Artistic Movement and producer of Brunello in Montalcino with Castello Romitorio. "The image of a tablecloth seemed to me the most effective for evoking the joy of the table and the ancient rite of tasting the products of one's labour and of the land. I remember that when the tablecloth appeared in my household, it was a moment of great joy for all of us", he concluded, commenting his latest work of art. A work of art (pictured right) that has been used to "clothe" a Barolo vintage, and a peculiar one at that - the Official Selection of Barolo DOCG 2012, a numbered and limited edition dedicated to restaurant entrepreneur and TV personality Joe Bastianich, also a winemaker in Italy. Bastianich is going to be at the Regional Wine Cellar of Barolo in Barolo's Castello Falletti next June 12th, as testimonial of the new vintage. "I am happy", Chia added, "that such a prestigious territory, one of the flagships of Italy's culture and tradition, has asked me to create the image of such a label". The Official Selection is going to be the bottle of all institutional events at the Regional Wine Cellar.



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Wine & Food

Slow Food founder Carlo Petrini, FAO Special Ambassador

According to the General Director of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization, Carlo Petrini, founder of the Slow Food movement, has contributed to the growth of the knowledge of the importance of evolving agriculture, creating a sustainable chain, among the general populace. And that is why this week the FAO has nominated him its Special Ambassador to Europe for the "Zero Hunger" initiative, sending "a strong signal aimed at the international community: a world without hunger is possible. The nomination, Petrini commented, "is an important one for Italy".

For the record

From Austria to Tenuta Argentiera

Stanislaus Turnauer, Austrian entrepreneur and owner of Constantia Industries, is the new majority shareholder of Bolgheri winemaker Tenuta Argentiera, with

75 hectares of vineyards in one of the finest areas of the Tuscan Coast. Turnauer is now partner of brothers Corrado and Marcello Fratini, who will stay in management.

