

News



Assoenologi, OIV, the future

According to Monika Christmann, President of the International Organization of Vine and Wine, the future of winemaking at a global level will focus on climate change, technological innovation, a growing production and international competition, a formal and legal redefinition of the concept of wine itself (especially regarding alcoholic content), a growing production and global consumption apparently going down in the near future. Christmann delivered these key points during her speech at the convention of Assoenologi, the Italian association of oenologists, which recently took place in Verona. "All in all", she concluded, "there are many challenges ahead for the global world of wine".



Assoenologi, a recap

Science, passion and culture are the three pillars of the profession of an oenologist - but, he also needs to tell the tale of wine through emotions and the arts. This is the main message of the national congress of Assoenologi according to his President, Riccardo Cotarella. And to Letizia Moratti, who told the tale of the redemption that grapes can foster in San Patignano, where drug addicts can get a new life. And to MPs Sani and Stefano, who proposed a law for the teaching of wine culture in schools. Wine, though, also means entrepreneurship, as Sandro Boscaini, President of Federvini, and Giovanni Mantovani, General Director of Veronafiere, pointed out. The next edition will take place in Tuscany in 2017, and it will pay homage to the late Giacomo Tachis, the true godfather of Italian wine.

Report

Russia grows again

According to Pietro Mastroberardino, President of Istituto del Vino Grandi Marchi (www.istitutigrandimarchi.it), "Italian exports in Russia are growing after the crash of 2015. In Q1 2016, Italy has exported 29 million Euros' worth of wine, up 6.5%. We believe that it is necessary to stay vigilant in a market that is worth 181 million Euros, and that is already structured and knowledgeable regarding Italian wine". The 19 winemakers of the Istituto have toured Moscow and Saint Petersburg this week.



First Page

Terroir according to "Monsieur" Romanée-Conti

"Even the world's greatest Stradivari is merely a piece of wood, its value lies in how one plays it. And this goes for a vineyard as well". This is how Aubert de Villaine, co-owner and co-Director of Domaine de la Romanée Conti, opened his "lesson" in Barolo, during the seminar titled "Terroir and its cultural, historical and taste expressions", chaired by wine writer Ian D'Agata, which started the "Project Wine" of the Collisioni festival (www.collisioni.it, July 14th-18th, Barolo, with WineNews as media partner). Terroir as a concept "was born in the Eighties, and was crowned by the recognition of UNESCO of the climats of Burgundy", as Jacky Rigaux, Professor of Burgundy University, pointed out before introducing Aubert de Villaine and oenologist Christine Vernay of Domaine Georges Vernay. And, de Villaine is very fond of the concept of "climat": talking about it with WineNews, he defined it as "the meeting of land, the vineyard and vigneron with culture. In Burgundy, climat does not have the same meaning that one might find on a dictionary: when we speak of climat, one must not only look at the sky, but at the land as well, it is an ancient plot with a peculiar subsoil and microclimate. Climat reverberates on wine, and makes it unique". And on the other hand, he continued, "wine is first and foremost a cultural product, and the experience of entire generations flows into it. The great geologic richness expresses itself in wine: the climate in Burgundy is harsh, with vineyards at 350 to 400 meters above sea level, and it is only thanks to the warm wind that brings the Rhone to the Mediterranean that grape can be cultivated. It is, in a sense, an hostile territory, but one that men and women have transformed into something of value". To the point that, as Professor Rigaux commented, "one can say that the wine contains its own land, as theorized in the concept of geo-sensorial tasting". Which is very familiar to the Viognier variety, which was saved a few decades ago and that today is exemplified by the 180 hectares planted in the north of the Côtes du Rhône, in Condrieu, by Domaine Georges Vernay, currently headed by Christine Vernay.

Focus

France, Italy and wine tourism

When it comes to wine tourism, the rivalry between France and Italy definitely relegates our country in the role of the underdog, as exemplified by the recent opening of "La Cité du vin de Bordeaux", which will most likely become a new and important pivot and focal point for the wine tourism sector of the country. Not to mention the website www.visitfrenchwine.com, which has unified in a single place all the many possibilities given to a foreign wine lover in France, and that aims to attract 4 million more wine tourists by 2020, as stated by Laurent Fabius, the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, during its official presentation. All in all, as Carlo Pietrasanta, President of the Italian Movement for Wine Tourism, which associates more than a thousand Italian vintners, stated, "wine tourism sports a French flag, definitely not an Italian one". "After the Expo", he continued, "no Italian politician forgot to mention wine tourism, but France was putting its money where it mouth was, and we are talking about tens of millions of Euros in tangible investments. In Italy, on the other hand, we don't even have a unified guideline, we're stuck with the old law on the Roads of Wine of 1999".



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MONTEFALCO SAGRANTINO

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Wine & Food

Wine and sustainability, from Germany to California

According to Hans Reiner Schultz, Presidents of the Hochschule of Geisenheim, the future of agriculture will be dominated by issues such as the growth of global population, less land for farming and, most importantly, less and less water. And, of course, the world of wine should be keenly aware of these issues, as he pointed out during the congress of Assoenologi in Verona. On that note, Professor Ron C. Runnebaum of UC Davis also showcased a winery that is completely self-sufficient regarding both electric power and water.

For the record

"Targeted" plantings ahead, says Fiorio

According to Massimo Fiorio, VP of the Agriculture Commission of the Italian House, "the new planting rights for vineyards must be awarded to those territories and productions

that have been the most successful on foreign markets". According to EU regulations, less than 1/10th (6.400) of the requests for 67.000 new hectares can be granted.

