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News



Serenity in "Vineyard Italy"

First rain and low temperatures, and then the sudden heat - but overall, Italian vineyards will not be in trouble in the months that decide the results of the harvest, as Attilio Scienza and Leonardo Valenti, of the University of Milan, and Riccardo Cotarella, President of Assoenologi, told WineNews. Generally speaking, episodes of late blight, prolonged florescence, the elimination of flowers, the generation of tendrils and so on have occurred, but they seem to be in check, and do not seem to warrant any worries. Therefore, in the days that prelude the decisive stage regarding the quality and quantity of the 2016 harvest, everything seems to be going quite smoothly.



"Sistema Prosecco"

Prosecco is a variegated world that has three denominations and consortiums: Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore Docg (83 million bottles in 2015, 40% exported), Consorzio del Prosecco Doc (355 million, 70% exported) and Consorzio Vini Asolo Montello (5 million). The three have joined forces since 2014 to fight counterfeiting and manage their remarkable success story in "Sistema Prosecco" (System Prosecco). Counterfeit Prosecco is quite the problem, with over 400 cases in more than 11 European countries, mainly online and since Germany is the most involved country, an agreement has been signed between Germany and the Italian anti-counterfeiting inspectorate ICQRF, to allow Sistema Prosecco to point out episodes of counterfeiting directly to German authorities.

Report

Chianti, only in Tuscany

From now on, Chianti DOCG wine can be bottled only in Tuscany, in order to guarantee traceability and more and faster product checks to protect the customer. This is the biggest news that has been inserted in the document of the suggested modifications to the denomination rules of the Vino Chianti Consortium, which the Ministry of Agriculture, the Regional Authority of Tuscany and the productive chain personnel will discuss this week. The denomination has more than 14.000 hectares of vineyards.



First Page

Italy's very best wines, says "Wine-Searcher"

France, Moselle, and a drop of California: according to wine-searcher.com, Italy is not included among the world's 50 most expensive wines. On top of that ranking, unsurprisingly, stands the king of Burgundy and star of world auctions, Romanée-Conti Grand Cru, at an average price of 13.007 Dollars, followed by a great name of Moselle's Rieslings, Weingut Scharzhof Egon Muller, at 8.495 Dollars per bottle, and by Montrachet Grand Cru Domaine Leflaive, at 5.803 Dollars. Italy is a bit further down, and in the top spots, it's all Barolo. Bussia Soprana Mascarello Giuseppe e Figlio, at 1.453 Euros per bottle on average, Collina Rionda Bruno Giacosa (844 Euros) and Monfortino Riserva Giacomo Conterno (671 Euros) are the top three Italian wines, as data updated on June 2016 states. Then, at spot number 4, Barolo Bussia di Monforte Riserva Speciale Bruno Giacosa (654 Euros), at number five there is Chianti Riserva Particolare Ruffino (636 Euros), at spot six, Barolo Falletto Riserva Bruno Giacosa (628 Euros), followed by Masseto (610 Euros). Then, at spot number 8, there is Amarone della Valpolicella Quintarelli (551 Euros), followed by Testamatta Colore Bibi Graetz (543 Euros) and Barolo Cannubi Bartolo Mascarello (523 Euros per bottle, on average). Things do change, though, when one looks for popularity, as calculated on the number of searches per single wine. At the very top spot of the "Top 100" ranking there is Château Mouton Rothschild, 73.156 searches, then Château Lafite Rothschild (68.849) and Château Margaux (50.922), for an all-French podium, in all probability also due to the recent en primeur campaign in Bordeaux, as demonstrated by the fourth spot of Pomerol (49.234 searches), while at the number five spot the most famous Champagne, Dom Perignon (46.206 searches). When it comes to Italian wines, Sassicaia is at the top at number 13, with 25.212 searches, followed by Tignanello, at number 25 (16.156), Ornellaia (at 33, with 13.584 searches), Masseto (spot 43, with 11.476 searches), Solaia (at 70), Barolo Monfortino Giacomo Conterno (at spot 80 with 7.136 searches), and finally Barbaresco Gaja (6.410 searches, at spot 93).

Focus

The top Italian grape varieties

Sangiovese is still the king of Italian vineyards, occupying 53.865 of the 637.634 total hectares of vineyards (2015 data of Unione Italiana Vini and Corriere Vinicolo), but compared to 2015, has lost 24.7% of all surfaces. The great family of Trebbiano grapes is at spot 2 with 42.144 hectares (a 27.4% drop), while Catarratto is at 32.222 (7.4% less), now at 3 instead of Montepulciano, which has plummeted to 27.434 hectares (21.2% less). Two white grapes, on the other hand, are on a roll, namely Glera (read: Prosecco), now at 26.571 hectares (35.4% more over 2010), and Pinot Grigio, at 24.501 (41.8%). Then Merlot follows at 23.631 hectares (15.7% over 2010), while Chardonnay has gone up 1.8%, to 20.056. Barbera went down, at 18.431 hectares (10.2% less), while Apulia's most famous varieties, Negramaro and Primitivo, have grown 52.7% and 33.4%, to 17.504 and 16.321 hectares. Nero d'Avola, the go-to red variety of Sicily, has lost 8%, down to 15.274 hectares, Cabernet Sauvignon is now at 13.258 (3.4% less), Moscato varieties have gone down 1.6% (12.792) and Lambrusco varieties have plummeted to 10.591 (25.7% less). Overall, Italian vineyards have grown 1.9% between 2010 and 2015.



A CAMPAIGN FINANCED ACCORDING TO EC REGULATION N. 1308/2013



Wine & Food

When wine, food and beauty go hand in hand

Italian wine & food producers have already done a lot to safeguard and promote the many wonderful landscapes, monuments and works of art of our country, but the effect can be mutual: and that is why the agreement signed yesterday between the Consortium of Mozzarella di Bufala Campana DOP and the Ministry for Cultural Goods and Activities is but the first step on a nationwide implementation of the same blueprint, which will see these two facets of Italian appeal work hand in hand for the greater good. Starting with southern Italy, whose GDP has outgrown national GDP thanks to agriculture.

For the record

"Made in Italy" flies high in the States

Italian wine & food products are going very strong in the United States. In 2015, exports there have grown 22% over 2014, to 3.9 billion Euros, and the trend is continuing,

with the first three months showing a 5.8% growth compared to the same months in 2015, according to data from this week's Summer Fancy Food event in New York.

