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News



A new President for Folonari

A historic change took place at the helm of Ambrogio and Giovanni Folonari Tenute: Ambrogio Folonari, former President of the Tuscan winery with a 200-year long history and six different estates (two in Chianti Classico and one in Bolgheri, Montecucco, Montalcino and Nobile di Montepulciano), for a total of 350 hectares of vineyards, has decided to nominate his son Giovanni to the role of President. The change in leadership is the latest step of an organizational reshuffle that began back in 2000, which was focused towards a renewing of the entire structure. As part of that process the first charme relais in Greve in Chianti, called Borgo del Cabreo, was created.



A "cross-border" PDO

After the many "inter-regional" Protected Denominations of Origin of Italy, like Prosecco and Pinot Grigio delle Venezie, soon a truly international one could be created between Italy's Friuli Venezia Giulia and Slovenia, in the name of Terrano. After the evaluation of both countries on the name "Refosk" and "Teran" takes place, the necessary documents will be forwarded to the European Commission, Italian Vice Minister for Agriculture Andrea Olivero stated. The process began in 2015, and now, "the technical aspects were tackled by Italy and Slovenia, a process that was not granted, since this is the first time that someone asked to create a cross-border PDO". Thus, the concept of a "wine territory" is about to cross national borders for the first time ...

Report

EU agri-labour is 25% illegal

According to the "Best Practices against Work Exploitation in Agriculture" report by the Milan Center for Food Law & Policy and Italian retail giant Coop, which was recently presented at the European Parliament, no less than 25% of the entire European agricultural workforce is made of black market labour. In some countries, like Romania and Portugal, the percentage spikes to 40% and 60%, respectively, while in Poland the rate is 25% - and in Italy, it is considered to be over 30%.



First Page

Italy, the most biodiverse wine country of them all

Italy is by a long shot the single country with the most vineyard-related biodiversity in the world, and this is not only due to the record it can boast regarding PDO and PGI wines (over 520 in total), but also to the fact that 75% of its vineyards (690.000 hectares in total, with 650.000 of those used to grow wine grapes) hosts the top 80 most cultivated grape varieties. A huge number, compared to Portugal's less than 40 varieties and Romania's less than 30, which are immediately below Italy in this peculiar ranking, which was created by the International Organisation of Vine and Wine OIV as part of the 2017 report on world winemaking which was presented during the Organisation's global congress that has recently taken place in Sofia, Bulgaria. All in all, the report backs the previous document on the matter, which was created in April and published during the 2017 edition of the Vinitaly wine fair in Verona (that is, 7.5 million hectares of vineyards at a global level, a 2016 output of around 75 million tons, 267 million hectoliters of wine produced and 241 million consumed the world over, <https://goo.gl/dLUWth>), and then focuses on vineyards and varieties. The Organisation's numbers further confirm Italy's lead in wine biodiversity, which is vastly superior to the biodiversity found in the vineyards of its main competitors, like France and Spain, since 75% of those are dedicated to only 15 grape varieties. Furthermore, the OIV document states, Sangiovese is Italy's most widespread variety, with 8% of all hectares, followed by Montepulciano, Glera and Pinot Grigio (4% apiece), Merlot (3%), and other accounting for the remaining 77%. In France, on the other hand, Merlot is king (14% of the 785.000 hectares in total), followed by Ugni Blanc (or Trebbiano Toscano) and Grenache (10% each), Syrah (8%) and Chardonnay (6%): these five varieties cover 48% of all vineyards. Spain's situation is even more polarized, with most of its vineyards (975.000 hectares, the highest number in the world) covered by Airen (22%) and Tempranillo grapes (21%), followed by Bobal and Garnacha (6%) and Viura (or Macabeu, with 5%), and all others relegated to the remaining 39%.

Focus

Gancia to be Piedmontese once more

After the end of the six-years long ownership by Russian oligarch Roustam Tariko, Gancia's Tenute dei Vallarino is back in Piedmontese hands once more. The winemaker from Canelli has decided to bet all of its chips on the production of sparkling wines, giving up ownership of both Tenuta Bricco Asinari, in San Marzano Oliveto, and Casorzo's La Tenuta Ragazzi. The former was acquired by Eatly founder Oscar Farinetti, together with his partner Piero Bagnasco: "an acquisition", Andrea Farinetti told WineNews, "that goes in the direction that we decided, that is, producing only great wines in really great territories. A different winery, called Valle Asinari, will be born, with a certified organic production and some experiments in biodinamic production, to create the best Barbera del Monferrato ever". The project of Paolo Damilano regarding the 20 hectares of La Tenuta Ragazzi, at the helm of the eponymous brand of Barolo, is equally ambitious: "we rented it when it was Gancia's, and we know its quality. We aim to make Barbera only here, with a forward-looking stance: for us, the relationship with the territory is essential and unbreakable".



Wine & Food

A draft emerges for CMO promotion funds, issues abound

The Ministry of Agriculture has sent to Regional authorities a draft for a decree regarding the distribution of EU CMO funds for wine promotion for 2017-2018, but issues still abound: the next meeting will take place next Monday, so before all actors can fully examine it, and according to some, the proposals and requests of the actors of the productive chain have been largely ignored. Furthermore, the rules for the ranking are still similar to the past edition of the distribution, so the process has not started under the best of circumstances so far.

For the record

Académie de la Gastronomie awards Italy

The recent round of awards by the Académie Internationale de la Gastronomie showcased Italy's lead in high-level catering: three-starred chef Enrico Crippa, of Alba's "Piazza Duomo", received the Grand Prix de l'Art de la Cuisine, and sommelier Alberto Santini, of "Al Pescatore", received the prestigious Prix Au Sommelier.

