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News



Zonin's next challenge in Chile

Zonin 1821, the biggest private Italian winemaker, will tackle its next international enterprise in South America, following the firm's tradition that began in 1976 in Virginia. Zonin 1821 has partnered with the Vial family, whose diversified business interests generate a turnover between 4 and 5 billion Dollars. The former will put on the table its expertise, technical supervision, marketing skills and commercial network, and the latter the best grapes from its 2.000 hectares of vineyards in some of the country's top terroirs. Top-of-the-line products will include a cru of Carmenere, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Sauvignon from Apalta and a Martinotti method sparkler.



Wine & sustainability

Banfi, the leading name in the world of Brunello di Montalcino, published the first edition of its Sustainability Report, identifying its strategic relationships and seven themes to consolidate its success, like reducing the consumption of resources and its effects on the territory. This path began with ethical certification SA8000, that testifies not only a growing interest in the matter among big names in Italian wine, but also the fact that "sustainability" is a tool to examine the relationships of a winery with its territory, including firms, administrative organizations and communities in general. "We consider the territory to be our most important commodity", Banfi's General Director Enrico Viglierchio told WineNews, "because outsourcing, in wine, is just not possible".

Report

Drought not a problem (yet)

After the wave of frosts that hit Italian vineyards at the end of April, water's now the main issue, as many Regions have been dry since May, mainly in northern Italy. According to a WineNews poll of some of the country's most important oenologists, like Carlo Ferrini, Professor Luigi Moio, Giuseppe Caviola and Franco Bernabei, the situation is not critical so far, but some rain would be very welcome, even though Sicily has had lots in winter, and sudden climate changes in the summer could be a much bigger issue.



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First Page

The wine world marches towards Vinexpo

With an ideal cry of "En Marche!" the entire wine world will be heading to Bordeaux, which is set to become the world capital of winemaking and all its themes at Vinexpo (June 18th-21st). It is the main biennial global wine fair which represents fundamental business occasions for many a winemaker, but also a not-to-be-missed opportunity to discuss some of the most important topics for the sector, like market evolution, climate change, the generational shift among consumers and producers and the protection of Denominations of Origin, the effects of Brexit, China, wine e-commerce, organic and natural wines (with "Wow - World of Organic Wines", a first for Vinexpo) and wine tourism, with the success story of the Cité du Vin. 2.350 exhibitors from over 40 countries will attend the fair, with loads and loads of Italian ones, as well as first-timers from NY State and Uruguay, and a growing attendance from China as a winemaking country, with 22 wineries. Speaking of conferences, included in our personal "road map", the official presentation of the partnership between Vinexpo and e-commerce giant Tmall-Alibaba will take place on June 18th, followed by "Fire & Rain: Climate Change and the Wine Industry", and then wine tourism is going to be the next subject, with "Great Wine Capitals: International Networking to promote local wine tourism destinations". On the 19th, after the official inauguration of the fair, led by French Agriculture Minister Jacques Mézard, the official ceremony of the "The Institute of Masters of Wine - The Drinks Business Lifetime Achievement Award 2017" will take place, followed by a meeting entitled "Big Data at heart of the wine industry's new opportunities". On the 20th, the focus will be on the "Declaration to Protect Wine Place & Origin", and then the challenges of the global wine market following Brexit will be discussed, followed by two different seminars hosted by Wine Intelligence. The first will be dedicated to "Future opportunities for Sparkling Wine", and the second will focus on "China's diversifying wine market". Then, on June 21st, the "Ecommerce and Digital Conference" will be held.

Focus

Italy's leading role in Bordeaux

Italy will be the most represented country at Vinexpo after France, with 225 firms, and is betting on the great international atmosphere of the fair. But, it is also keeping its finger on the pulse of the French market, the 6th most important in value (155 million Euros in 2016, up 8.6% over 2015) and 4th largest in volume (over 1 million hectolitres, up 8%), according to Italian trade agency ITA. Italy will be featured at seminars on sparklings, wine shops, mass retail, e-commerce and rosé wines, with Milan University's Attilio Scienza and Bordeaux University's Raoul Salama. All of the biggest brands, consortiums and business groups will be there, like Italia del Vino Consorzio and Italian Signature Wine Academy - ISWA, as well as lots of tastings, like the ones by Gambero Rosso (focused on the winners of the special awards of its 2017 "I Vini d'Italia" guide, with Bellavista as winery of the year, and on its "Three Glasses"). There will also be tastings by Bettand & Desseauve, France's most authoritative wine critics, focused on Piedmont, Friuli, Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore, Tuscany and Sangiovese and the modernity of southern and central Italy.



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Report

Wine & Food

Prosecco's Q1 2017 figures for UIV's "Corriere Vinicolo"

Sparkling wines have kept Italian wine exports in the green in 2016 (5.6 billion Euros, up 4.3% over 2015), and Prosecco is the undisputed champion. Thanks to new customs codes, one can now pinpoint its performances more accurately, as UIV's "Corriere Vinicolo" has done using ISTAT data. In Q1 2017, exports of Prosecco DOC and DOCG reached 383.000 hectolitres worth 149 million Euros, 51% of the volume and 56% of the value of all Italian sparklings (8% and 11%, respectively, of all Italian wine exports) - and the UK and the USA alone are worth over half of that figure.

For the record

Italy outperforms in Liv-Ex's indexes

All the indexes of fine wines benchmark Liv-Ex have gone up in the first 5 months of 2017, and Italian wines have outperformed. The "Liv-Ex Fine Wine 100" grew

2.2% (with names like Masseto, Sassicaia, Ornellaia and Solaia), and the "Liv-Ex Fine Wine 1000" grew 3,6% - including the "Italy 100" index, which grew a stunning 6,47%.



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