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News



Solaia soars on Liv-ex

It is not a coincidence that it is one of the most sought after wines online, and that together with Ornellaia, Sassicaia, Masseto and Tignanello, it is among the five Super Tuscans Liv-ex listed (in addition to Barbaresco and Langhe Sori Tildin by Gaja, Barolo Vigne by Luciano Sandrone, Guado al Tasso and the Redigraffi by Tua Rita, ed.), The real surprise for Solaia, the Super Tuscan created in 1978 in the Chianti Classico vineyards of Antinori, is discovering it is by far the top performer among the Italian wines on Liv ex 100 Italy. Analysing the performance of the last ten years on the market, growth in prices was up 27.8% compared to 2016, against an average 15.7% for Italian wines.



Prosecco continues to grow

Full sail ahead for Prosecco, according to the Consortium DOC. The first quarter of 2017 confirmed growth trend in exports (+6.9%, and in detail, +9.6% for the sparkling version and 6.3% less for the fizzy) and bottling (+7% in the first half of the year compared to 2016). And, in view of the harvest, the quality of grapes in the vineyard is consoling considering the drop in quantity, which however, should be recovered thanks to the increase in areas recorded in the archives as well as releasing the 2016 vintage stock reserves. Lastly, the pioneering agreement the chain has achieved will guarantee more competitive and "anti-distortion" contracts, which will be also more market-friendly and respectful of consumers' health, residents in the territory and the environment (<https://goo.gl/1uCN4g>).

Report

Italy growing again in the US

Italian wine exports are up in the US once more. The beginning of 2017 was difficult indeed, but the first half (compared to the same period in 2016) marked +0.7% increase (1.29 million hectoliters) and +1.1% increase in value (673.6 million US dollars), revealed the Italian Wine & Food Institute. Italy is still the leader, boasting a market share of 26.1% in quantity and 31.7% in value. Italian sparkling wines in the States continued to grow, reaching 321.370 hectoliters (+13.9%) for 164.4 million US dollars (+9.6%).



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Harvest 2017: some "tentative" predictions

Grape harvesting has already begun, extraordinarily early, in practically every part of in Italy. The first bunches were picked in Sicily and Sardinia as early as the last week in July, while harvesting grapes for sparkling wines in Franciacorta and Oltrepò Pavese is already well under way. When talking about bubbles, of course, we have to talk about the state of art Veneto vineyard, and therefore Prosecco, upon which Veneto Agricoltura, the agency for innovation in the primary sector of the Veneto Region, has dedicated edition 43 on sales forecasts in Triveneto and the rest of the country. Starting from, obviously, the climatic trend that has characterized this year, in Veneto the most significant one was the anomalous heat in March, which led to early budding, and then the gems were hit by frosts on April 19th to 21st, especially at Bardolino and Custoza. Following these climatic phenomena, came rains in June and drought in July and August, for a year mirroring 2007, with production expected to fall 10% for reds and 6 to 7% for whites, as well as early harvesting at least a week ahead compared to 2016. The good side is that the grapes are healthy, which is a constant, like ripening, affecting all the regions analysed. Starting from Piedmont, which will lose 10-15% of its potential production, and Langhe and Roero that are now beginning to suffer due to the drought. April frosts, however, affected 30% of the vineyards in Franciacorta and Oltrepò Pavese, while in Valtellina everything was within the norm. Emilia Romagna is in a worse situation, where quality in the region's 50.000 hectares of vineyards, seems to be forgettable. In Tuscany, apart from occasional cases of burned grapes, where selections were mistakenly carried out in recent weeks, the trend is similar to that of the rest of the country, and a probable 20% decline is expected. Early harvesting also in Apulia, where the crazy climate did not hit as hard as in the rest of the peninsula, while in Sicily the harvest is already under way, and the expectations in terms of quality are definitely high (<https://goo.gl/TQ8zVt>). Decisive, as usual, will be the coming weeks.

Focus

Organic is still booming in Italy

The organic boom in Italy continues. There has been a 20% increase of cultivated areas. In 2016, 1.795.650 hectares were cultivated using the organic method, compared to 1.5 million in 2015. This means that in the past year, over 300.000 hectares have been converted to organic. Further, workers in the sector increased to 72.154 (+20.3%). The data comes from SINAB for the Ministry of Agriculture, at the preview of the official presentation that will take place at SANA, the organic show in Bologna from September 8th through 11th. "The Italian agricultural model", said Minister Maurizio Martina, "has been confirmed one of the most sustainable in Europe. We are working with an important program and the results tell us that we are on the right road. In addition to 1.5 billion euros in European funds to be distributed to the Regions by 2020, we have introduced, for the first time, certified organic canteens and have made stricter control standards". Crops that have shown the most growth include vegetables (+48.9%), grains, (+32.6%), grapes (+23.8%) and olives (+23.7%). Sicily is the top "organic" region with 363.639 hectares, then Apulia 255.831 hectares and Calabria 204.428 hectares.



ARNALDO CAPRAI

Viticoltore in Montefalco

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Wine & Food

Sangiovese: DOCG Montecucco against Romanian PGI

The Montecucco Wine Consortium in Tuscany, led by Claudio Tipa, has sent a request to the Ministry of Agriculture, in defence of Sangiovese, asking to amend the specification of the PGI Dealurile Zarandului submitted by Romania to mention Sangiovese on the label. "The name of a variety of wine grape, containing or made up of a protected designation of origin or a protected geographical indication, cannot be used on the labelling of agricultural products", the Consortium pointed out (<https://goo.gl/Bysy4K>).

For the record

Too much land consumed says Ispra

The agricultural and wooded areas covering Italy are being threatened by cement and asphalt. From the 1950s to the present, 7.6% of the surface of Italy, or 23.000 square

kilometres has been devoured. The rhythm of consumption has fallen in recent years to 3 square meters per second; nonetheless, 5.000 hectares have been lost in the last 6 months.



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