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News



The first bunches of great reds

White grapes are already in the cellars - and will soon be joined by early red varieties, in the context of an unprecedented vintage, with many freak weather occurrences such as spring frosts and widespread droughts - but some of the first bunches of Italy's greatest red wines have also been cut at the end of August, including global heavyweights such as Veneto's Amarone della Valpolicella and Tuscany's Brunello di Montalcino, Bolgheri with its Supertuscans, Chianti Classico and Chianti, a denomination - and a word - which is among the most known and famous of the globe. The only big name that is still missing so far, thanks to the leniency of the weather, is Barolo.



White overtake reds in Italy

Demand for Italian reds is booming in the East, and is growing in Canada and the U.S., but is going down in Europe, and in Italy in particular, where whites have overtaken reds in 2016 (40.6% for still whites versus 40.2% for still reds), also due to the drop in domestic demand and sales (14% less) of the last five years. Outside national borders, average prices have gone up 50% since 2007, with Italy's creeping closer to France's (3.88 versus 2.86 dollars per liter in 2008, now it's 5.18 for French wines and 4.29 for Italian ones). The data comes from an analysis penned by Wine Monitor-Nomisma for the celebrations of the 50 years of Marche's Rosso Conero denomination and presented for the "Collisioni Jesi" event, part of "agri-rock" festival Collisioni's "Project Wine", led by renowned wine writer Ian D'Agata.

Report

2018 to be "the year of food"

"Let's make 2018 the Italian year of food", Minister for Agriculture Maurizio Martina stated from Bologna's Festa dell'Unità socio-political meeting, on stage together with Slow Food founder Carlo Petrini, nutrition historian Massimo Montanari and Minister for Culture Dario Franceschini. With this message, Martina has effectively reaffirmed the initiative to join food and tourism that Franceschini proposed back in June, as reported by WineNews at the time.



First Page

Little wine, many reflections for the 2017 harvest

Should another unpredicted hailstorm or some other freak occurrence take place, then Italian wine production in 2017 will go below 40 million hectoliters, the latest estimates from ISMEA and Unione Italiana Vini say. According to data collected between the end of August and the first days of September, 2017 production should go down 24% compared to 2016's 54 million hectoliters, to 40.02, in a harvest where marked differences in output are present not only between different territories, but between different vineyards as well. "We've reached the lowest result of the last 50 years, data says, with a drop of around 20% in almost all regions. For example, Friuli has gone down 11.5 (1.6 million hectoliters), Sicily has plummeted 35.5% (3.9 million hectoliters), Tuscany's gone down 32.5% (5.8 million), Piedmont 27.5% (1.8 million hectoliters), Emilia Romagna is down 25% (5.8 million) and Veneto has gone down 17.5% (8.3 million hectoliters). On the other hand, wine production will go down in all Europe, reaching around 140 million hectoliters, with sharp drops in France (37 million hectoliters) and Spain (35 million) as well", said Ignazio Sanchez Recarte, Secretary General of the Comité Européen des Entreprises Vins, "therefore, competition on markets still is a big unknown, between rising prices and wine production on the rest of the world, from the U.S. to Australia, stable or going up. This year also tells us that the EU planting rights system, which allows for a 1% increase of vineyards, is inadequate and too rigid". "In any case", UIV President Ernesto Abbona commented, "grapes are healthy, and we'll work as much as possible on quality: when professionalism meets love for the vineyard, damage can be mitigated and good things can come". Still, the public sector should activate extraordinary measures; "we're working on the National Solidarity Plan and on insurances on income", Vice Minister for Agriculture Andrea Olivero told WineNews: regarding CMO promotion funds, "we're sorry for this delay, but we're confident that we'll be able to activate this fundamental process as soon as possible", he concluded.

Focus

Global wine exports up, Italy not so much

The good news is, global wine demand is rising: the bad one is that Italy is indeed following this trend, but is not keeping up the average pace, and that of some of its competitors, in a shifting context where, for example, China's demand has overtaken Germany's in value (1.149 billion Euros to 1.137) for the first time ever, Business Strategies's Non-EU countries Observatory pointed out in its latest analysis. Demand in the States, which are still the most important wine market of the entire world, has gone up 10.2% year-over-year, and it's there that Italy is lagging behind, since its exports have gone up only 5.4%, even though it's holding on to its leadership. France has gone up 105 million Euros in value there, and is now right behind Italy (792.2 million Euros for the former and 828.3 million for the latter in the first half of 2017). In the East, China's data is comforting (up 21%, almost three times the average growth), as well as Russia's (up 35.3%), but sales in Japan have gone down 5.3%, even if the free trade agreement with the EU is not active yet. The main European markets for Italian wine, lastly, are stagnating (Germany has gone down 2.3%, and the UK has gone down 1%).



ARNALDO CAPRAI

Viticoltore in Montefalco

CAMPAIGN FINANCED ACCORDING TO EC REGULATION N.1308/13

Wine & Food

Xylella infection present in EU grapevines in Mallorca

No less than 13 grapevine plants have been infected by the Xylella Fastidiosa bacteria in Mallorca, as has previously happened among Apulia's olive trees in 2013: the news was confirmed by the local Autonomous Community, as well as by the laboratories that have been analyzing the samples. World-famous viticulture expert Attilio Scienza, nonetheless, told WineNews that even if the infection is confirmed, "it would create a difficult situation, but it would not have the same impact that it had on olive trees, since one can fight it with the appropriate preventive measures".

For the record

Ferrari and the Emmy's "golden grandeur"

Cantine Ferrari's Trentodoc Metodo Classico will be the official sparkling of the 2017 Primetime Emmy Awards for the third year in a row: an edition that will aim to join

elegance and sustainability in a "golden grandeur" - "which can be compatible worlds", Matteo Lunelli said - with an unmistakable touch of Italian style.

