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News



The US' top wine influencers

According to Claire Hennessy of the Colangelo & Partners PR firm, some of the top influencers of the United States' wine market include "The NY Times"'s Eric Asimov, "Bloomberg"'s Elin McCoy, "The Wall Street Journal"'s Lettie Teague for the traditional press, and critics of wine publications such as "The Wine Advocate"'s Monica Lerner, "Wine Enthusiast"'s Kerin O'Keefe, Antonio Galloni and Ian d'Agata of "Vinous", "Wine Spectator"'s Bruce Sanderson and Alison Napjus, James Suckling and so on, but sites such as VinePair of WineFolly as well, if one looks towards Millennials. Hennessy's list was showcased this week in Verona, during the "Wine2Wine" b2b forum on wine.

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WS' "magnificent 107" for "Opera Wine 2018"

Boscarelli and Tenuta di Trinoro (Tuscany), Gravner (Friuli), Leone De Castris (Apulia), Maculan, Bortolotti and Nino Franco (Veneto), Mamete Prevostini (Lombardy), Marchesi di Barolo and Prunotto (Piedmont), Pietradolce, Serraglia and Feudi del Pisciotto (Sicily), Quintodecimo (Campania), Tenuta San Leonardo (Trentino) and Drei Donà (Emilia Romagna): here are the 16 new entries of the "cream of the crop" represented by the 107 Italian winemakers selected by "Wine Spectator" for "Opera Wine 2018", the illustrious grand tasting that for seven years now has been the preview for Vinitaly (April 14th, 2018, www.operawine.it). The selection puts together wineries from all over Italy, from Valle d'Aosta to Sicily's Pantelleria, and firms that are extremely different from one another for size, territory, productive style, history and heritage, but that all share the extremely high quality of their wines, and their capacity to narrate the great diversity of Italian wine, according to "Wine Spectator" magazine. A honor roll, so to speak, that includes names such as Allegrini, Antinori, Argiolas, Arnaldo Caprai, Bellavista, Bertani, Santadi, Carpineto, Banfi, Castello d'Albola (Zonin), Castello di Ama, Cusumano, Casanova di Neri, Di Majo Norante, Donnafugata, Famiglia Cotarella-Falesco, Ferrari, Feudi di San Gregorio, Gaja, Lungarotti, Frescobaldi, Masciarelli, Masi, Mastroberardino, Mazzei, Nino Negri (Giv), Planeta, Quintodecimo, Tasca d'Almerita, Tedeschi, Ornellaia, Tommasi, Tormaresca, Umani Ronchi, Zenato, Zyme, Aldo Conterno, Avignonesi, Braida, Castello di Ama, Ca' del Bosco, Dettori, Garofoli, Gini, Pieropan, Jermann, Massolino, Paolo Scavino, Petrolo, Renato Ratti and Vietti, just to name a few. "We've reached the point where we taste 3,000 Italian wines every year", "Wine Spectator"'s Alison Napjus told WineNews, "and it is simply impossible to showcase all that Italian wine has to offer with only 100 wines, one would need many more than those. It is always an exceptional group of producers, and they change, in part, every year because this is the only way for us to represent the enormous vitality and diversity of Italian wine".

Focus

Prosecco DOCG's success by the numbers

According to the Economic Annual Report on Prosecco DOCG, authored by the District Studies Center of Conegliano Valdobbiadene and by University of Padua's CIRVE reserch center, the denomination's footprint on international markets is widening, and its sustainability in the vineyards, in the cellars and in its territory is growing fast: the uppermost tier of the quality pyramid of Prosecco is about to close its books on a 2017 studded with new records, with an estimated 93 million bottles sold (up 3% over 2016) and 520 million Euros in turnover (up 6%), with exports absorbing 40% of sales and Germany as its main market. Additionally, organic Prosecco DOCG is growing rapidly (up 20% in 2016), in a denomination where 80% of total production is completed following the sustainability guidelines of the "Viticulture Protocol", encompassing all steps from the vineyards to the cellars, all the way to the territory, with practices such as planting trees and hedges on the producers' part. The denomination, additionally, is growing in Italy as well, and even though mass retail is still absorbing the lion's share of the total, the on-trade is growing as well, reaching a 37% share.



A compromise for Amarone

After the two conflicting rulings of the Courthouse of Venice and of the European EUIPO office regarding the "Amarone Families" brand association, dialogue seems to be the only way forward to safeguard Valpolicella - a territory that gives birth to 60 million bottles and 550 million Euros in turnover each year, 75% from exports - according to both the Consortium, led by Andrea Sartori, and by the Families, led by Sabrina Tedeschi. The former hopes that "the Families come back to the Consortium, and some will be in the board someday, in order to discuss themes that concern the denomination", while for the latter "a different identity should be recognized for different valleys and territories. Our territory should be promoted together, through a direct and constructive debate".



ARNALDO CAPRAI

Viticoltore in Montefalco

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Report

VPE to look abroad

VeronaFiere, with Vinitaly, is the leading fair of Italian wine, and Fiere di Parma, with Cibus, is its equivalent for food products: the two entities have decided to join forces, looking towards both Italy and, most importantly, foreign markets, by creating VPE, a new company that, to all intents and purposes, becomes the leading direct organizer of wine & food events in Italy, and one of the biggest in Europe. The partnership was made official during this week's "Wine2Wine" b2b forum in Verona.

Wine & Food

15 Italian winemakers in WS' "Top 100 Values" ranking

Italy has traditionally found in its quality/price ratio one of its biggest strong points, and this characteristic has been confirmed by the latest edition of the "Top 100 Values" ranking by "Wine Spectator" magazine, with wines below 20 Dollars per bottle and a minimum score of 88/100. 15 Italian wineries are in the ranking: I Greco, Prà and Roberto Anselmi for Light Whites, ColleMassari, Banfi and Barberani for Rich Whites, Rodàno, Avignonesi, Santa Cristina, Brigaldara and Chiarlo for Elegant Reds and Braida, Lini Oreste & Figli, Bellenda and Medici Ermete in the Sparkles category.

For the record

Neapolitan pizza now a UNESCO heritage

After the Mediterranean diet in 2010, the art of Neapolitan pizza makers is now officially a UNESCO heritage as well, after a candidacy that was put forward all the way

back in March 2009. "A great success for made in Italy products, and great news for 2018 as the Year of Food", the Ministry for Agriculture commented.



A CAMPAIGN FINANCING IN ACCORDING TO REG. EC N. 1308/2013