



OperaWine
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Italian Weekly Wine News.it



Issue 53 - Sept. 24th-29th, 2012 - Expressly for wine lovers, professionals and opinion leaders the world over
Registration number 709, Courthouse of Siena, March 31st, 2001 - Editor-in-chief: Alessandro Regoli

News



The "Zucco" on the big screen

The history of the richest man of the second half of the 18th century, the Duke of Aumale, the "King of the French", the man that, after being exiled from his homeland, found safe haven and the wine that accompanied him for the rest of his days, Zucco, in Sicily, is larger than life. Today, at the Feudo dello Zucco, near Palermo, that wine is no longer produced, but Pietro, who inherited the Duke's lands, one day hears a voice, the call of the past, that will change his life forever. This is the story of "Lo Zucco", the movie that Lidia Rizzo has presented in Venice, and that was shown last week at Terrasini, in the Palazzo d'Aumale, the former home of Zucco.



An "agricultural" program

It is a fact that agriculture is an important sector for Italy, even more than others that are constantly under the spotlight of the media, like automotive (which is fundamental nonetheless). Wine & food products exported in 2012 were worth 15.2 billion Euros, and the automotive exports were worth 13.2, and this demonstrates the fact. But now it would probably be wise to "reprogram" and reschedule the future of Italy by centering it on agriculture, mainly (but not only) on that with a high added value and putting in in synergy (on a factual basis) with the best of what the country has to offer compared to the rest of the world: landscapes, territories, history and culture. It's a mix that no-one can copy, and that would guarantee a prosperous future for Italy.

Report

Sommeliers convene

Understanding if wine's most traveled roads, from sustainability to organic wine and indigenous grapes, but also the most extravagant, like ageing in amphors or underwater, can produce innovation or are just publicity stunts. And also, the good and the bad of the proliferation of blogs, magazines, guides, awards and contests. These are the topics of the National Convention of AIS, the Italian Association of Sommeliers, which will take place on October 1st-2nd at Rome's Cavalieri Hotel.



First Page

Sustainable wine: a "megatrend" to be discovered

The world of wine is ever more attentive to the topic of ecologic sustainability, which was the focus of the "Sustainability of Viticulture in Italy" meeting that took place last Monday in Palermo. At the meeting with some of the country's most famous wine producers (Monte Vibiano Vecchio, Gancia, Masi Agricola, Antinori, Mastroberardino, Chiarlo, Venica&Venica, Planeta and Tasca d'Almerita) and the Universities of Perugia, Piacenza and Turin, Italian Minister for the Environment Corrado Clini said that "an environmental certificate from the Ministry would greatly help Italian wine exports". But is that really so, and does this concern only foreign markets or also Italian consumers? "It is a sensibility that is coming to the world of wine from the sectors of food and cosmetics" Professor Marilena Colussi, sociologist of nutrition, told Winenews: "Sustainable production methods are now a "megatrend", and that is why those players of the wine business that try to position themselves accordingly can succeed". Of course this is not the first feature to be considered in the choice of a bottle, because first and foremost "a wine must reassure its customers about its healthiness and being genuine, but sustainability is an important development area for those who seek to upgrade the image of their products: the trend has the potential to become an important phenomenon". But which wine lovers who are more attracted to the possibility of buying bottles where indexes such as carbon and water footprint, the "evaluation of the vineyard agronomical management" and the "socioeconomic and landscape quality indicator" are written on the label? "We are talking about those consumers who usually read labels and keep the information in mind", Professor Colussi said, "therefore the younger customers, who have a higher environmental sensibility. And among wine lovers there is a segment, which amounts to 22% of all wine consumers, that I call "informed": those who do not know every denomination by heart, but still look for a good story behind a bottle - and the fact that it has been produced while respecting the environment is a good story in itself".

Focus

Rumours abound on "Vini d'Italia" awards

The "special awards" of Gambero Rosso's "Vini d'Italia 2013" guide are among the most prized in the world of Italian wine. And according to rumors collected by Winenews, the sparkling wine of the year should be Aquila Reale Riserva 2005 Trentodoc by Cesarini Sforza, of the Cantina-La Vis group. The red of the year should be Tenuta San Guido's Sassicaia 2009. The white of the year should be Cof Sauvignon Zuc 2011 by Volpe Pasini. The best sweet wine should come from the Aosta Valley, the Valle d'Aosta Chambave Muscat Flétri 2010 of La Vrille. Tenute Selle & Mosca from Sardinia should be winemaker of the year, and the best up-and-comer should be Terenzi, a young firm from the Tuscan territories of Morellino di Scansano. The sustainability award should go to Castello di Monte Vibiano Vecchio, in Umbria, the first in the world to be "zero emission" certified. The wine with the best price/quality ratio should be the Apulian Salice Salentino Rosso Riserva 2009 by Cantele. The viticulture of the year award has already gone to Nicodemo Librandi of the Librandi firm. The awards will be officially announced in Rome on October 21st.



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Wine & Food

The best Italian wine? It's Valentini's Trebbiano d'Abruzzo 2007

The best Italian wine is the Trebbiano d'Abruzzo 2007 by Valentini. Such is the response of the "Best Italian Wine Awards" (full list on winenews.it), created by Luca Gardini, 2010's World Champion of Sommeliers, and by Andrea Grignaffini. The awards are a variegated bunch: vintages from 2001 to 2010, "artisans" such as Valentini, Biondi Santi or Mascarello, but also "modernists" like Voerzio or Casanova di Neri, big numbers producers like Banfi, Produttori del Barbaresco and Barone Ricasoli, and wines that focus both on a single indigenous grape and international blends.

For the record

If this is wine

A new product has appeared on the shelves in the UK: a "do-it-yourself" kit to make concoctions which are called "wine" by the kit's producers. Taking the essence of a product

away to be more competitive might be no crime, but is surely ethically bankrupt, and that is why the world of Italian wine strongly protested the matter.

