



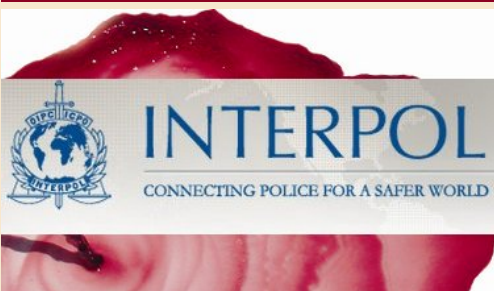
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News



Interpol to fight counterfeiting

Interpol is now officially part of the fight against counterfeit "Made in Italy" wine & food products, announced the Minister of Agriculture Mario Catania on the same day that 3.5 tonnes of counterfeit products were confiscated all over the country. "This network of international cooperation is bound also to fight the so-called do-it-yourself 'wine kits', made in the U.K., with fake Barolo, Chianti, Valpolicella, Montepulciano and Nero d'Avola". It is an important and clear message: some kinds of battles cannot be fought worldwide and on global markets by single ally. And now honest producers have one more ally.



SMS

Repetita iuvant (on line)

In the crowded world of Internet, among thousands of authoritative (and less authoritative) voices, sometimes one can be misunderstood, so a repetition might be in order: blogs, which are a tool for democracy, free expression and sharing opinions, are welcome, with the utmost freedom. But only if they don't become a vent for frustration and insults, and only if the writer does not hide behind anonymity. Because even if one can still find out who is behind a pseudonym, law enforcement must step in on the matter and that is no trifling matter. And in any case, we believe that communication and discussions on wine should strive to get new readers and aficionados, rather than focusing on itself through sterile bantering.

Report

Italians & Champagne

Italians are ever more keen on Champagne: in 2011 7.6 million bottles were consumed (6.3% more compared to 2010), making Italy the fifth market in value and the sixth in volume worldwide. Italians are also faithful to big brands, with 86% of the market going to the great maisons, but are also curious about new ones, with 470 brands imported in 2011. And just last Tuesday, in Rome, the Comité Champagne organized a "Champagne day" with 67 brands and 190 cuvées.

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First Page

Top Italian winemakers trust the 2012 harvest

The 2012 harvest is complex, but according to an informal poll conducted by Winenews in Italian wine's top territories, the most important winemakers of the country are expecting to get good results nonetheless - and in some cases even great ones. From Michele Chiarlo, Damilano and Pio Cesare in Piedmont to Ferrari in Trentino, Speri in Veneto, Venica in Friuli, Bellavista and Castello Bonomi in Lombardy, Ceci in Emilia, Castello Banfi, Ornellaia, Rocca delle Macie, Fattoria di Magliano, Rubbia al Colle and Fattoria del Cerro in Tuscany, Velenosi and Umani Ronchi in Marche, Caprai, Lungarotti and Decugnano dei Barbi in Umbria, Valle Reale and Villa Medoro in Abruzzo, Feudi di San Gregorio in Campania, Cantine Due Palme in Apulia and Planeta, Donnafugata, Cusumano and Cottanera in Sicily and Argiolas in Sardinia. It has been an early harvest almost everywhere, for reds as well, and it is rolling towards the end. The problems created by constant heat and droughts have been felt all over the country, but they have been tackled well both in the vineyards and in the cellars. A production drop will be just as widespread, which will diminish the quantities of grapes by roughly 10% on average compared to 2011 - which was a very scarce harvest year itself. The most penalized varieties have been the early ones, both white and red, with Merlot, "the grape of water", as the French call it, being the most damaged. The vintage is bound to favour Italian grape varieties of ancient cultivation, which are more used to the Mediterranean climate and to hot weather. Overall, then, the 2012 vintage will award those producers that have been able to manage the hardships more skilfully, it will highlight the differences among terroirs and it will showcase agronomical and oenological skills, since it forced everyone to face problems that Italian wine can no longer ignore, like more free use of irrigation, not only to keep the plant alive but also to preserve the equilibrium of its fruits, the use of traditional growth techniques and a varietal choice more in touch with a climate that is undeniably changing.

Focus

Italian wine to be a "world heritage"?

Wine is without a doubt a world heritage, at least informally. But some wine territories have been granted the official title from Unesco, like Val d'Orcia in Tuscany, Montalcino and its Brunello, San Gimignano and its Vernaccia, but also the Sicilian Val di Noto, home of baroque cities and important wines, or Castel di Monte in Apulia, with vineyards right next to the Castle of Frederick II. And there are even more of these wine territories in the Italian "tentative list" presented to Unesco, like Langhe, Roero and Monferrato (but their candidacy has already been moved to 2013), home of Barolo and Barbaresco, Valtellina and the hills of Prosecco of Conegliano and Valdobbiadene. Moreover, a higher number of areas, even though they are not linked to Bacchus, have a fundamental part of their history and culture in viticulture. Like Etna (pictured right), which a Unesco delegation is currently visiting, or Orvieto, the valley of the Aniene river in Lazio, the Salento region of Apulia, or the Murge of Altamura, in Sardinia. The answer will be months or years coming, but a "no" today might well become a "yes" tomorrow - and in the meantime, what better pastime than a glass of wine?



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Wine & Food

Tinseltown's big stars just love truffles

300 Euros for 100 grams, or 3.000 euros for a kilogram. Or rather, 20 Euros for a "grating" of white truffle of Alba on risotto, tagliatelle, eggs and so on: this is the value of the "tuber magnatum pico" in the Piedmont territory, 20% less than 2011, according to the National Centre for Truffles. But the drop will definitely not hinder the International Alba White Truffle Fair (Oct. 6th- Nov. 18, fieradeltartufo.org), which will showcase the relationship between big-screen celebs and truffles: from Rita Hayworth to Marilyn Monroe, Alfred Hitchcock and Sophia Loren, none have resisted its allure.

For the record

A "haute couture" harvest in Milan

Wine will meet fashion in one of its temples - Milan's Via Montenapoleone - with "Vendemmia di Via Montenapoleone", starting Oct. 11th, with boutiques hosting

tastings and tours of winemakers, but also themed events in top hotels and restaurants, with names such as Antinori, Versace, Ca' del Bosco and Tom Ford going hand in hand.

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