



OperaWine  
www.operawine.it

# Italian Weekly Wine News.it

vinality  
IN THE WORLD  
www.vinalitytour.com

Issue 60 - Nov. 12th-17th, 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



### Italy is in the "Top 100"

According to "Wine Spectator" magazine, Italy might get a lot of laurels, but the top spot of its 2012 "Top 100 wines" list is the Relentless Napa Valley 2008 by the Californian Shafer Vineyards. The top ten is made of 3 American wines, 4 French, 1 Australian and 1 Argentinian label. And one Italian as well, Brunello di Montalcino 2007 Ciacci Piccolomini d'Aragona at number 9 (pictured above is producer Paolo Bianchini). But there's a dash of Italy at number 10 with the Malbec by Achával-Ferrer, since their oenologist is Roberto Cipresso. Last year, one out of every five bottles in the top 100 was "Made in Italy": the full list will be published next week.



### Wine-mania spreading in the Oval Office?

Even if President Obama is known to prefer beer, his advisors in the Oval Office are becoming a cadre of true fans of Italian wine. Not only his economic advisor Richard Parsons, a former executive of Time Warner and Citigroup, is a full-fledged wine producer of Brunello di Montalcino, but Jim Messina, Obama's campaign coordinator, has just announced that he'll drop by Italy for a couple of weeks to do a crash course on red wine. At this rate, a tasting of Italian wine at the White House might be in the cards sometime down the road. With the nectars of the "Belpaese" paired with dishes made with veggies coming from the First Lady's own garden, of course...

## First Page

### Laurels abound for Italian wine in U.S. press

According to the 2012 "Wine Star Awards" of the renowned American magazine "Wine Enthusiast", Italian wine truly is king of the hill: their "European Winery of the Year" award was just given to Arnaldo Caprai, the Umbrian winemaker who pioneered the rebirth of Sagrantino di Montefalco in the world. The award confirms how much the States care about all facets of Italian winemaking, which is still leader in both value and volume among "foreign" wines: "Sagrantino is my home's indigenous grape", Marco Caprai, at the helm of the firm, commented, "and it is my passion. I have dedicated my life to making it become famous the world over and this award is an important recognition for this effort". But the American magazine is not done with Italian wine yet, at least as far as awards are concerned. Italian wine is now on top of the world not only for those who buy wine to enjoy it, but also for those who buy it to enrich their collection: Guado al Tasso 2008 Bolgheri Superiore by Marchesi Antinori is in the top spot of the magazine's "Cellar Selection 2012" - that is, the top 100 wines that cannot be lacking in a connoisseur's wine collection. One out of every 5 bottles in the selection come from Italy, 21 from France and 36 from the U.S.: after Guado al Tasso come the Tuscans, with Capanna's Brunello di Montalcino at number 5, and Brunello di Montalcino Luce della Vite 2007 (Frescobaldi) at number 13. Then more from Bolgheri: Ca' Marcanda 2007 Promis (by Angelo Gaja) at number 17 and Argentiera 2008 by Tenuta dell'Argentiera at number 21; followed by more Brunello, with Corte Pavone 2007 at number 26. After those, comes the first non-Tuscan, Barolo La Serra 2007 by Gianni Voerzio, at number 30, Brunello di Montalcino 2006 Madonna del Piano Riserva by Valdicava at 34 and San Pietrolo 2011 by Fattoria Petrola. Number 41 is Cascina Nuova 2007 by Elvio Cogno, and at 45 Sicily with Guardiola 2008 Tenuta delle Terre Nere, right before Giusto di Notri 2008 by Tua Rita. Umbria comes up at number 53, with Sagrantino 25 years 2007 by Caprai, followed by Brunello di Montalcino Cerretalto 2006 by Casanova di Neri at number 58.

## Focus

### Italy's "stars" for the Michelin Guide

The rumours have been confirmed: the fabled "three stars" of the Italian Michelin Guide are still 7 in the 2013 edition. Enrico Crippa, pictured right, of "Piazza Duomo" in Alba (Cuneo) takes the place of "Al Sorriso" in Soriso (Novara) and joins Massimo Bottura's "Osteria Francescana" in Modena, Nadia Santini's "Dal Pescatore" in Canneto sull'Oglio (Mantova), Massimiliano Alajmo's "Le Calandre" in Rubano (Padova), Annie Féolde's "Enoteca Pinchiorri" in Florence, Heinz Beck's "La Pergola" at the Rome Cavalieri Hilton, and the Cerea brothers "Da Vittorio" in Busaporto (Bergamo). There are 39 restaurants awarded "two stars". The newcomers are "L'Antica Osteria Cera" in Campagna Lupia (Venice), "Agli Amici" in Godia (Udine) and "La Trota" in Rivodruti (Rieti). 261 restaurants, with 25 newcomers and 14 "removals" (mainly due to changing the chef or closing), have a single star, for a grand total of 307 establishments (12 more than in 2012) and 360 stars (13 more than in 2012). A historical result, "marred" only by the fact that there are fewer and fewer women in these kitchens like, to name a few, Rossana Marziale of "Le Colonne" in Colonna and Paola Budel of "Venissa" in Venice.



## Report

### From Panama to Montalcino

Even in dire economic straits, Brunello di Montalcino and its territory are still a magnet for foreign investments: according to information retrieved by Winenews, Panama's Soleya International Corporation has bought both the vineyards and the cellar of Tenuta Oliveto, property of the Machetti family. The company is worth almost 8 million Euros (25 hectares, 4.5 for Brunello), and a stone's throw from the historical abbey of Sant'Antimo, which the new owner already christened "Tenuta Buon Tempo".

## Wine & Food

### Former CEO of Porsche ventures into Italian food

From "haute driving" to quality Italian food: Wendelin Wiedeking, former President and CEO of renowned German automaker Porsche, the most paid executive of German industry in 2009, has just decided to try his hand at the Italian catering business. After leaving his post in 2009 and dipping into the real estate and footwear businesses, Wiedeking's first fast food establishment, dedicated to pasta and pizza, will open next month in the German town of Ludwigshafen. The restaurant will be the first of a chain, to be named "Vialino", which is ready to expand in Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

## For the record

### Opera Wine gives an encore

According to rumours picked up by Winenews, after the success of the first "Wine Spectator" grand tasting in Italy, the whole roster of the 100 winemakers selected for "Opera

Wine" have been confirmed for the 2013 edition (on April 6th, operawine.it) which, as usual, will be the prelude for Vinality (April 7th-10th, vinality.com).

vinality  
IN THE WORLD  
www.vinalitytour.com

vinality  
IN THE WORLD