



OperaWine
www.operawine.it

Italian Weekly Wine News.it

vinality
IN THE WORLD
www.vinalitytour.com

Issue 61 - Nov. 19th-24th, 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



Italian wines, Asian passion

A true must-have, Tenuta dell'Ornellaia's Masseto, is still among the top lots for wine collectors, according to the results of the latest auction by Italian wine auction house Gelardini & Romani in Hong Kong; the top spot was for Domaine de la Romanée-Conti 1988, but "cult" wines like Brunello di Montalcino by Biondi Santi Tenuta Greppo (vintage 1971, which overbid by +300%), Luce della Vite 1997 by Frescobaldi, Flaccianello 2001 by Fontodi, Barbaresco 1964 by Gaja and Le Pergole Torte by Monteverte were beyond the shadow of a doubt among the most sought-after gems of the auction - which was all but sold out, since 99.28% of base auction value changed hands.



Chinese education

Markets are made of more than just numbers, and the Chinese one is no exception, even if its economic growth has made it the most sought-after destination of the world's leading wine producing countries. One of the instrumental factors for the success of Italian wines on the Asian market is education & training and the good news is that China is pulling all stops on this front as well. The number of Asians enrolled in the British training institution "Wine & Spirit Education Trust" courses will surpass the number of British pupils by this Christmas. A noteworthy fact indeed, and a sign of just how much wine is part of the life of thousands of Asian wine lovers - not only as a pleasurable drink, as it has been for some time now, but also as a newfound and promising career venue.

Report

Here comes Christmas

The season to be jolly is almost upon us and Italians will spend 551 Euros per family for the festivities: gifts and leisure expenses will take a hit, but wine & food (29% of total expenses) will grow 2.1%, according to the "Xmas Survey 2012" by Italian farmers association Coldiretti. And for those who cannot face the throngs of Christmas shoppers, e-commerce of wine might be a good alternative, both for Americans (Amazon and Facebook both announced that they will sell wine) and Italians.

vinality
IN THE WORLD
www.vinalitytour.com

First Page

16 Italian labels in Wine spectator's "Top 100"

There has been little room for Italy among the cream of the crop - the top ten wines of the prestigious "Top 100" ranking by the American magazine Wine Spectator. French wines took the lead with four labels, and the American Shafer Vineyards' Relentless Napa Valley 2008 took the top spot, while the only "full-blood" Italian wine on the list was Brunello di Montalcino 2007 by Ciacchi Piccolomini d'Aragona at number 9 (but there's a dash of Italy at number 10 as well, with the Argentinean Malbec Mendoza Finca Bella Vista 2010 by Achával-Ferrer, since their winemaker is Roberto Cipresso). Still, if one considers the full ranking - which still reflects the very best wines on the American and global market (100 wines out of 17.000 tastings), since it is compiled not only with quality in mind (the score must be higher than 90/100) but also price (the average tag is 46 U.S. dollars), market availability and an "X factor", which can be "the hype generated by a producer which is seen as a rising star, or the embodiment of a territory" - the "Belpaese" pulled its own weight, with 16 wines in the ranking (down from 20 in 2011) among the 16 countries present in the "Top 100". Barbaresco 2007 by Punset is at 17, Barolo Gavarini Chiniera 2008 by Elio Grasso at 24 and Flaccianello 2009 by Fontodi is at 25. Chianti Classico Riserva 2009 by Castello di Monsanto got spot number 31, and Chianti 2010 by Folanari is at 41. Number 44 went to Barolo Monprivato 2007 by Giuseppe Mascarello & Figlio, followed at number 46 by Veneto Bianco San Vincenzo 2010 by Roberto Anselmi, by Barbera d'Asti Superiore Le Orme 2009 by Michele Chiarlo at n. 47, and by Vino Nobile di Montepulciano Leone d'Oro 2009 by Vecchia Cantina di Montepulciano at number 49. In the lower half of the ranking, Vigneti delle Dolomiti Rosso Alta Luna Phases 2009 by Cavit is at 52, Barbera del Monferrato Maràia 2011 by Marchesi di Barolo is at 66 and Greco di Tufo Devon 2011 by Antonio Caggiano is at 69. The tail of the pack is comprised of Brunello di Montalcino 2008 by Collesorbo at 81, Ilatraia Maremma Toscana 2010 by Brancaia at 86 and Aglianico di Irpinia 2008 by Donnachiara at 100.

Focus

Italian wine "still optimistic", says MPS

According to the "Trends and perspectives of wine production" report, to be presented today during the Wine Forum created by the Monte dei Paschi Bank of Siena that Winenews has previewed, positive trumps negative in Italian wine. Export is still the key factor, since it provided for 45% of total revenues for winemakers in 2011, reaching the record total of 4.4 billion Euros and could further increase its weight in 2012: on the other hand, volume might take a hit, with Spain possibly surpassing Italy as a producing country. The EU is still the most important market for Italian wine, with 51.8% of all wines going beyond the borders stopping there, but it might soon become "saturated", and this will in turn force winemakers to look towards extra European countries - not only the "usual" USA, Russia or China, but Brazil, Mexico, South Korea or East European countries as well. All in all, though, the sentiment is positive: 66% of producers are expecting their turnover to grow in 2013, and 82% of them are expecting their export quota to grow further, even if not by much (an average of roughly +5%). But in times like these, anything with a plus sign is warmly welcomed.



buy wine
14 - 15 February 2013
Florence

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE
OF TUSCAN WINE
SUBSCRIBE NOW >



OperaWine
www.operawine.it

Wine & Food

American wine lovers still love Italy's "great classics"

According to the Super Premium and Luxury categories of the People's Voice Wine Awards by snooth.com, American wine lovers have a soft spot for famous names: in the former, the best Italian red is Barbaresco by Produttori del Barbaresco, the best white is Vespa Bianco by Bastianich, and the top Tuscan red is Chianti Classico Riserva Ducale by Ruffino; in the latter, the best red is Barolo Cannubi by E. Pira & Figli, and the top Tuscan is Brunello di Montalcino by Castello Banfi. The Editor's Choice awards went to Barolo Monvigliero by Burlotto and to Brunello di Montalcino by Costanti.

For the record

Barilla to open restaurants in NY

After Rana Group that opened a new production plant in Chicago last October (for a 65 million U.S. dollars price tag), another big name of Italian food is going stateside.

Barilla, a name that is synonymous with pasta the world over, will soon open its first restaurants in New York: the project might well bloom into a national chain.

vinality
IN THE WORLD