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News



Tango & Brunello

Alejandro Bulgheroni, a famous oil entrepreneur hailing from Argentina - but no stranger to the wine world since he bought the Dievole estate in Chianti Classico some time ago - officially signed the contract that makes him the new owner of Poggio Landi, a "detachment" of the historical Fattoria dei Barbi, owned by Stefano Cinelli Colombini, for an estimated investment of 15 million Euros. The news, which Winenews announced first, is now official: Poggio Landi has been the property of the Cinelli Colombini family, one of the oldest in Montalcino, since the 1940s and is comprised of 134 hectares of land - 25 of which are vineyards - and a 7.200 square foot mansion.



The world's best "nannies"

The world's most sought-after "nannies" from London to Dubai are Italian, especially because of their capabilities in the kitchen. It is one of the most important and well-paid skills of those who choose this old profession - which, due to the economic climate, is being picked up once more by young Italian men and women. And just as happens for many products, "Made in Italy", even where cooking is concerned, has become one of the winning selling points in one of the few sectors where demand is still overtaking supply. To the point that, according to Paola Diana, founder of specialized websites like yourdomesticstaff.com, job offerings for Italian "nannies" have grown by something like 40% in the past 6 months, and they all come from abroad...

Report

A wine & food "bastion"

Maybe it's because good food is hard to resist, or because it is one of the few everyday luxuries that everyone can still enjoy, but wine & food is still one of the bastions of Italian consumption, especially during the festivities. In a generally bleak scenario, which saw consumption of goods in general plummet 14% over 2011, wine & food products held their ground, as according to Italian consumer association Federconsumatori, the drop was just 1% compared to the figures of last year.



First Page

A look back at 2012 for Italian wine

2012 has been quite a year. Exports reached 3.3 billion Euros (+7.5% over 2011 for the first 9 months), and a record figure of 4.7 billion Euros in value, for 21.5 million hectoliters, is in the cards. The U.S. is still the king of foreign markets (+7.2%), but Asia is going well, with China in the lead (Hong Kong also hosted the biggest auction of Italian wines ever by Gelardini & Romani). Internal consumption dropped to 35 liters per capita, and the weather gave us hotter harvests, more problems in vine growing and wines that, although still very good, are less apt to age well. 2012 also saw the first labels with "organic wine" printed on them, and a lot of investments, like Panama's Soleya, which bought Tenuta Oliveto, or oil entrepreneur Alejandro Bulgheroni, the new proprietor of Poggio Landi in Montalcino, or Tenimenti Angelini, which raised its stake in Bertani Holding and Tenuta Novare to 100%. A lot of new cellars appeared on the scene: from Pomodoro's Carapace in Montefalco, owned by the Lunelli brothers (Ferrari) and Zonin's Masseria Altamura in Apulia to the new headquarters of Antinori in Chianti Classico and Planeta's Feudo di Mezzo in Etna. And if only 4 wines made the big guides reach a consensus - Barolo Cannubi Boschis 2008 Sandrone, San Leonardo 2007, Sassicaia 2009 and Grattamacco 2009 - international critics have crowned Italy; Wine Enthusiast gave Caprai its "Best European Cellar 2012" award, Guado al Tasso 2008 Antinori reached the top spot of the "Top 100 Cellar Selection" (with 20 Italian wines), "The Enthusiast 100" had 17 and Wine Spectator's "Top 100" had 16, with Brunello di Montalcino 2007 Ciacci Piccolomini d'Aragona at n.9. Wine Spectator also signed the year's event, "Opera Wine", the first tasting of the magazine in Italy with Vinality (to be repeated in 2013) and the top 100 Italian winemakers. Last but not least, the "Open Cellars" event of the Movement for Wine Tourism turned 20, and the news that went global, the act of vandalism at Case Basse in Montalcino, which destroyed six vintages of Brunello (2007-2012) - a sign of the attention that Italian wine, a symbol of our culture, can command in the world.

Focus

9 Italian brands in Liv-Ex's "Power 100"

The influence of Italian wine in Asia keeps on growing, according to both aggregate numbers and to the latest "Power 100" ranking by Liv-Ex, the world benchmark for the fine wines market, which has seen Asia become its engine. Italy now has 9 brands in the upper half of the list, compared with last year's 7, and price quotations have grown 5 to 6% over the last year. France still dominates the upper tiers of the ranking, with 9 of the 10 top spots. The highest-ranking Italian is Masseto, at number 12 (up from spot 51 in 2011), followed by Tenuta San Guido's Sassicaia at 14 (up from 27) and Ornellaia at 20 (number 35 in 2011). Then two newcomers, Giacomo Conterno at 46 and Tua Rita at 52, and two of Antinori's brands, Tignanello (at 53) and Solaia (at 66). Roberto Voerzio, another newcomer, at 69 and Gaja at 72 close the Italian platoon. Fine Italian wines are then mainly Tuscan and Piedmontese: their success in Asia has grown as a consequence of the trailblazing French wines. The Liv-Ex index is compiled with five parameters in mind: the amount of trades, Robert Parker's score, average price, price performance and production volume.



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Wine & Food

More wine tourism, great wines for the "rebirth" of SaiAgricola

After the merger between Italian insurance colossus Unipol and Fondiaria-Sai, Saiagricola - the wine "empire" of the Ligresti family - could see a lot of investments in its future: according to its CEO, Domenico Terzano, La Poderina estate in Montalcino will buy the vineyards it currently rents to boost its production of Brunello, and wine tourism will become a priority for Fattoria del Cerro, in Montepulciano, and for Monterufoli, near Pisa. Rough economic times or not, then, it seems that wine, vineyards and solid walls are still good assets for anyone.

For the record

Mr. Zuckerberg, castle dweller in Asti?

According to the latest rumours Mark Zuckerberg, father of Facebook, is pretty close to buying the splendid castle of Lavezzole, a fraction of San Damiano d'Asti, a

town in Piedmont famous for its Moscato Bianco vineyards; the 11.500 square foot castle, spread on four floors, should go for a sum close to 8 million Euros.

