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News



MPS's Poggio Bonelli for sale?

The recent financial and political storm that hovers over the Siena bank Monte dei Paschi di Siena, the oldest bank in the world, could soon have consequences for its agricultural properties. The "Sword of Damocles" of the 4 billion Euros payment that the Italian government loaned to Monte dei Paschi is dangling, and some rumours already have it that the Poggio Bonelli Estate, which is in Chianti and should be worth roughly 40 million Euros, could already be on the market, albeit unofficially. On the other hand, agricultural properties are no longer strategic for MPS: the Siena bank already sold Fontanafredda to Eataly's Patron Oscar Farinetti in 2012.



Italy rules in auctions

"Made in Italy" symbols are an essential part of most wine auctions in the world, and the American Naples Winter Wine Festival charity auction - the most important one on a national level - was no exception, since the flagship products of the "Belpaese" gave a fundamental contribution to the cause. Together with Ferrari and Maserati cars, the wine sector held the Italian flag up high: labels like Amarone Allegrini, Antinori's Tignanello, Sassicaia 1985 and Gaja's Barbaresco, together with Lodovico 2007 by Lodovico Antinori (Tenuta di Biserno) claimed rebate after rebate. Moreover, Italian firms included a visit to their wine's homeland in the lots: Piero and Lodovico Antinori and Allegrini offered a tour of Bogheri, Montalcino and Verona.

Report

Record exports for Tuscany

In the first nine months of 2012 sales of Tuscan wines on foreign markets grew 6.8% compared to the same period in 2011 (yearly sales reached 659 million Euros) and considering that exports during the last quarter are roughly 30% of the yearly total, the total turnover of Tuscan wine commerce could reach 700 million Euros for the first time. Definitely a good omen for "Buy Wine", the b2b event that will take place in Florence on February 14th-15th (www.toscanapromozione.it).



First Page

The future of Italian wine according to Vinexpo

The future of wine is rife with possibilities and confirmations, starting from the pivotal role that France and Italy will enjoy in the coming years on the world stage of wine and up to the confirmation of emerging countries - like China and Russia - whose markets will keep on growing, with Moscow importing increasingly more wine from historical producing countries and Peking gradually becoming - at least as far as quantity is concerned - one of the world's most important producers. The trend will go on at least until 2016, according to the latest forecast by Vinexpo and International Wine & Spirits Research (www.iwsrc.co.uk). Given the global scenario, then, what should the Italian wine world focus on, or worry about? WineNews asked Xavier De Eizaguirre, President of Vinexpo (vinexpo.com), which will return to Bordeaux on June 16th-20th. "Italy has shown a remarkable capacity for growth in all markets, but from a production point of view the current drop will keep on going on until at least 2016, summing up a loss of 16.9%, considering both the 2007-2011 average and the 2012-2016 forecasted average (going from 2007's 4.399 million litres to the 3.582 millions forecasted for 2016)". Consumption will follow a similar path since "it will keep on going down from 2012 to 2016, losing 4.89% (from 2012's 2.969 million litres to the 2.564 forecasted for 2016)". These numbers should not be cause for alarm, though, since the domestic market should hold, thanks to mid-tier wines (those between 5 and 10 U.S. Dollars a bottle and sales should grow 13.49% between 2011 and 2016) and upper-tier wines (over 10 Dollars, which will grow 23.24%). France and Spain will follow a similar trend and exports will keep on growing spectacularly, thus keeping up the production of the "Belpaese", De Eizaguirre concludes, "since Italy has conquered the middle and the upper tier of the market, which will grow 30% from 2012 to 2016, both on historical markets like Germany, the U.S. and the UK, and emerging ones, like China, which will grow 40% between 2012 and 2016, consolidating its role as the fifth consumer country in the world".

Focus

The history (and figures) of Valpolicella

Amarone della Valpolicella is the leading wine in Veneto: its firms are growing (150 more from 2003 to 2012), and so are its hectares of vineyards (from 2000's 5.200 to 2012's 7000, as the President of the Valpolicella Wines Consortium, Christian Marchesini, pointed out) and its turnover (the wine is worth 350 million Euros before it leaves the cellars, Valpolicella, Recioto and Ripasso included, according to the Consortium's Director, Olga Bussinello, and its total turnover is over 700 million Euros according to the President of the Chamber of Commerce of Verona). Moreover, 80% of its production goes abroad. This is the state of things in Veneto according to the 2009 vintage preview, "Anteprima Amarone": and the fact that Amarone is loved abroad is also confirmed by a recent Vinality survey conducted among 400 wine operators from 16 countries, as Giovanni Mantovani, General Director of Verona Fiere, pointed out. "Amarone is well known for 68% of the sample and it's a wine for special occasions for 79.6% of them". Such a success can invite fakes, though, and more than 450.000 Euros have been spent in 7 years to protect a brand that is registered in 36 different countries.



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Wine & Food

Farewell to a maestro of Southern Italian wines

Lucio Mastroberardino, a first-tier protagonist of the Italian wine world and the rebirth of Southern Italian wines, recently passed away. Born in Avellino, Campania, in 1967, Mastroberardino spent his life believing that "being open to change is fundamental for a firm's growth, its cohesion, its continuity and to make it better". A belief that he applied to his entrepreneurial vision, making his firm, Terredora, one of the leading names of Southern Italy's wine production. He was also the President of Unione Italiana Vini: both the association and the world of wine will surely miss him.

For the record

Gentleman's best Italian whites

According to the staff writers of the Italian Gentleman Magazine, who recently cross-checked the scores of the top five Italian wine guides, the best Italian white is Cervaro della

Sala 2010 Castello della Sala (Antinori), followed by Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Riserva 2009 by Villa Bucci and Ronco delle Mele 2011 Venica.

