



OperaWine
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News



“OperaWine” goes to China?

“OperaWine”, the prestigious preview created by VeronaFiere with the top 100 Italian labels selected by the renowned American Magazine “Wine Spectator”, has come back for its second edition at Vinality. Moreover, the format might soon move from Verona to China. So far, it’s only an idea, but according to Thomas Matthews, Executive Editor of “Wine Spectator”, a selection of Italian wines created to promote Italy, the quality of its wines and the history and gravitas of its firms and their territories “could well be a way to communicate to the Chinese the great variety of Italian wines in an organized and understandable manner”.



For Franco Biondi Santi

The passing of Franco Biondi Santi marks a farewell to a true legend of wine, a true gentleman that loved Montalcino and its territory. He was a man of times past, jovial and ironic, with whom we’ve had the pleasure to speak and joke with to the very last. With him we tasted the greatest and oldest vintages and Reserves of one of the world’s greatest wines, his Brunello di Montalcino. The staff of WineNews expresses its thoughts and affection to Franco Biondi Santi’s wife, Maria Flora Perfetti, to his sons Jacopo and Alessandra and to his nephews, Clio, Tancredi and Clemente Biondi Santi, sons of Jacopo, and Gregorio Miceli di Serradileo, son of Alessandra. Farewell, Franco, and thank you for everything.
Alessandro Regoli - Irene Chiari

Report

50 years of DOC

3.209 square kilometres, 24.970 firms that make DOC and DOCG wines: these are the numbers of the denominations of origin today, which - since their institution in 1963 - have contributed to the growth of the quality of Italian wines and to its economy. Exports reached the record sum of 2.08 billion Euros in 2012, and 55% of the 1.25 million jobs in the sector is due to firms that make DOC and DOCG wines, according to the latest figures by Coldiretti and the Ministry for Agriculture at Vinality.



First Page

CMO Wine, Vinality and the Milan 2015 Expo

One of the themes of this year’s Vinality has been “down with bureaucracy”, but another has been “internationalization”. And news on that front is coming from the event in Verona, from CMO (Common Market Organization) wine to the agreement between Vinality and the Milan 2015 Expo. Regarding CMO wine, promotional funds, which have given a great impulse to exports of European and Italian wines, could also be used within the EU. According to Paolo De Castro, President of the Agriculture Commission of the European Parliament, “Parliament wants this innovation, and we hope that it will be received and accepted by both the EU Commission and its Council. The European market represents 50% of the total exports of its member states: just think of how important markets like Germany and the U.K. are for Italy”. An answer will only come after the end of negotiations on the 2014 Common Agricultural Policy, which will also include the CMO. In the meantime, many firms are waiting for the next CMO announcement (which amounts to 337 million Euros), and as Antonio Rallo (Unione Italiana Vini and Assovini Sicily) told Winenews, UIV, Federvini and other associations have prepared a document, to be sent to the Ministry for Agriculture, to make the announcement more accessible. “We’re covering both complicated and simple issues, like the possibility of using a Certified Mail Account in order to speed things up”. In the meantime, VeronaFiere and the Milan 2015 Expo have signed an agreement. “It is a “natural” collaboration, given the theme, which is nutrition”, Giuseppe Sala, CEO of Expo Milano, commented, “and the role VeronaFiere plays in wine & food, not only through Vinality. We want to create a sort of national off-salon”. According to Giovanni Mantovani, Director of VeronaFiere, “we’ve been thinking about “OperaWineExpo”, and from now until 2015 we will promote the Expo in all foreign events of Vinality and OperaWine - and the Expo will do the same. We will then create a series of events in Verona by linking two masterpieces, the opera and wine. And we’d also like to create a Grand Tasting in Milan to close the Expo”...

Focus

Here comes “Viva Sustainable Wine”

“Wine is a symbol of Italy in the world, and associating this symbol with sustainability is an added value. Moreover, the more competitive top-tier products on global markets gain value when they can show a sign of environmental quality. There is an advantage for Italy, which is upgrading its reputation through initiatives like these, and for businesses too, because they become more competitive”. Italian Minister for the Environment Corrado Clini welcomed the presentation of the “Viva Sustainable Wine” label (pictured right) with these words: the label certifies the self-evaluation process on environmental impact (with 4 indicators: Air, Water, Territory and Vineyard) carried forward by 9 “pioneer” firms - Gancia, Masi, Antinori, Mastroberardino, Chiarlo, Monte Vibiano Vecchio, Planeta, Tasca d’Almerita and Venica - together with the Universities of Turin, Perugia and Piacenza. “Investing in environmental sustainability”, Piero Antinori told Winenews, “is both an opportunity and a duty, because as entrepreneurs we have social responsibilities, and also because in our line of work respecting nature and the environment is fundamental in order to produce better and better wines”.



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Wine & Food

The Italian Association of Sommeliers vs. the Academy

“The Los Angeles Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences cannot forbid the use of the “Oscar del Vino” brand to Italian Association of Sommeliers AIS and Bibenda”: this is the ruling of the Italian Court of Appeals, after ten long years of legal struggles. The sommeliers, so to speak, have beat Tinseltown, and so the coast is now clear for the “Oscars of Wine”, one of the most prestigious prizes in the world of Italian wine. The shortlist for the 2013 edition will be revealed next April 11th in Rome, together with what’s in store for the prize’s future.

For the record

A zero-impact cork for San Polo

The first corks produced with zero impact on the environment and without the use of oil by-products were presented today at Vinality: they represent the latest step of San

Polo’s “green” production, the Allegrini family’s Brunello label. The corks are made by the Novacorc firm and are, of course, 100% recyclable.

