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News



Cotarella to lead Assoenologi

WineNews had seen it coming since June 2012 at the most recent oenologists' association Assoenologi Conference, but it is now official: Riccardo Cotarella, one of the most famous Italian oenologists in the world, was elected the new President of the organization last Tuesday. Cotarella, a consultant for many important firms, is also at the helm of his family's firm, Falesco, together with his brother Renzo, and teaches at the University of Tuscia. The election further enhances the career of Cotarella, who was elected "Winemaker of the Year 2001" by "Wine Enthusiast" and was called "one of the most influential people in the world of wine" by "The Wine Advocate".



A new world champion

The title of "World Champion of Sommeliers" will stay in Italy one more time, since the World Wide Sommeliers Association, led by Franco Ricci, has recently awarded the title to Luca Marini from Arezzo, who has bested 22 competitors from the four corners of the world and taken the sceptre from reigning champion Luca Gardini. Martini, who had previously won the Italian title in 2009, is 32 years old and works at the Osteria da Giovanna in Arezzo, Tuscany. Dennis Metz, from Trieste, and the French Jonathan Fillon ended up in a tie as runner-ups. Considering the tests during the finals, the sommelier world is becoming ever more complex: it was not only about wines or pairings, but beers, spirits and the suggestion of a cocktail were also on the table.

Report

The Consortium sues Soldera

The Consortium of Brunello di Montalcino has decided to take legal action against producer Gianfranco Soldera for the statements he made to the Italian newspaper, "Corriere della Sera". During an interview, Soldera called the offer of wines from other producers, as a way of helping him after many of his vintages had been destroyed, "offensive and preposterous, close to consumer fraud". Soldera has also been expelled (even though he had previously resigned, formally he would have been a member until 2015).



First Page

From Bolgheri wines to "Bolgheri style"

According to the "founders" of Bolgheri DOC - Nicolò Incisa della Rocchetta (San Guido), Piero Antinori (Guado al Tasso), Lodovico Antinori (Tenuta di Biserno), Piermario Meletti Cavallari (founder of Grattamacco, currently owned by the Collemassari group) and Michele Satta (Michele Satta), reunited at the recent "Le Confessioni di Bolgheri" meeting - the wines of Bolgheri are a staple of Italian fine wines, from Sassicaia to Masseto, Ornellaia, Grattamacco, Messorio and Guado al Tesso, while the territory is still a work-in-progress, and must be properly communicated. There's work to be done, then, to go from the success of Bolgheri wines in the world to a true "Bolgheri style". The territory is indeed unique: it is Italy's Provence for rosè wines and has grown to become the country's Bordeaux with its Supertuscans. Moreover, Bolgheri is a territory where the beauty of its landscapes, history and culture intertwines with the wines, and it is also a territory borne out of the actions of "non-indigenous" entrepreneurs (the Incisa della Rocchetta family is from Piedmont, Piero and Lodovico Antinori hail from Florence, Meletti Cavallari is from Lombardy and Satta from Sardinia) through international grape varieties. Bolgheri testifies how the union of cultural contamination and different entrepreneurial experiences can make or break a territory, not so much through indigenous varieties but through the potential of the territory itself. Now, local businesses which have benefited greatly in terms of intangible value from Bolgheri wines, must keep up with its pace by building networks and creating a wine & food culture that can properly accompany the wines. Just like Sassicaia has been the driving force behind Bolgheri, Bolgheri must become the driving force to promote the entire Tuscan coast, creating intangible value for all its territorial identities. The Bolgheri area is 1.220 hectares: 1050 hectares are DOC Bolgheri and 170 Tuscan IGT. But its value can grow even more, and that is probably why Castello Banfi, the renowned firm from Montalcino, has recently bought five hectares in Bolgheri from the Folonari family that owns the Campo del Mare Estate in the area.

Focus

Larner to join "The Wine Advocate"

"Finally! It's official... I will be tasting Italian wines for The Wine Advocate!". This is the tweet that Monica Larner (pictured right) wrote to announce her official admission to the staff of the world's most influential wine magazine, confirming the rumours anticipated by WineNews. An important goal indeed, and one that Larner has reached through her professionalism and through the quality of her work during the 10 years that she has spent at "Wine Enthusiast", definitely contributing to its growth. And the "toast of honour" has seen some unbelievable magnum bottles, straight from Parker's cellar: Cappellano 2001 Barolo Pie Franco-Michet, Pira 1997 Barolo Marena, Gaja 1989 Barolo Sperss, Aldo Conterno 1989 Barolo Bussia, Bruno Giacosa 1996 Barbaresco Asili Riserva, Bruno Giacosa 1990 Barbaresco Santo Stefano Riserva (and a bottle of Brunello di Montalcino Riserva 1983 Biondi Santi, which Larner brought as a "symbol of her country of expertise", as other editors have done with bottles from their respective countries). The staff of WineNews would like to extend its best wishes and congratulations to both Larner and O'Keefe, who will replace Larner at "Wine Enthusiast".



A CAMPAIGN FINANCED ACCORDING TO EC REGULATION N. 1234/2007



A CAMPAIGN FINANCED ACCORDING TO EC REGULATIONS N. 1234/07

Wine & Food

O'Keefe to become the new Italian editor of "Wine Enthusiast"

It is now official: as WineNews anticipated, Kerin O'Keefe is going to be the new Italian editor of the renowned American magazine "Wine Enthusiast". Adam Sturm, editor-in-chief of the magazine commented, "Kerin is one of the most authoritative commentators of Italian wine in the world, and is universally respected in the Italian wine community". The news comes on the heels of the official announcement of the fact that Monica Larner, whose job O'Keefe has just taken, will become part of the editorial staff of "The Wine Advocate" magazine.

For the record

A sterling start for Italian wine in the States

2013 has begun with a bang for Italian wines in the US: imports of wine on the number one market in the world in the first two months of the year have seen 378.090

hectolitres of wine (+10.7%) reach the States, and 186 million US dollars (+14.2%) come back as a consequence, according to the Italian Wine & Food Institute.

