



OperaWine  
www.operawine.it

# Italian Weekly Wine News.it

vinality  
IN THE WORLD  
www.vinalitytour.com

Issue 9 - Dec. 5th-10th, 2011 - Expressly for wine lovers, professionals and opinion leaders the world over  
Registration number 709, Courthouse of Siena, March 21st, 2011 - Editor-in-chief: Alessandro Regoli

## News



### Wine save the Queen

The times, they're a-changin': India, a former member of the Commonwealth with a booming economy, is about to progressively lower its duties to encourage the commerce of fine wines, while "Motherland" Great Britain, which is suffering the consequences of the global crisis, connects its duty tax on wine to inflation and with a forecasted yearly growth of 2%, the British treasury hopes to collect 58% more in 7 years' time (1.7 billion pounds in the last fiscal year), making wine, among spirits, the first contributor to the U.K.'s balance sheet. The forecast is published in a document of the Balance Office dated Nov 29th 2011. Wine save the Queen, then.



OperaWine  
www.operawine.it

SMS

### B&B, luxury on tap

In hard times many turn their attention to products that are deemed to be safer - and this goes for wine as well. Proof comes from the prices and availability of two luxury "on tap" wines, from two first-tier territories that are said to be in dire straits. The Tuscan Brunello di Montalcino 2007 is almost impossible to find: its quotations are going one way only, up, and have reached 900 Euros per hectolitre. Same thing for Piedmont's Barolo: 2007's production, which has been on the market since January 1st, is all but bottled, and its December quotations hover around 600 Euros, up 25% since February. Results that other territories can only dream of and that deserve praise and encouragement to those who worked hard to get them. And, results that are a welcome boost of confidence for all Italian wine.

## Report

### 2012 going, going, gone!

Afraid that the new vintage of the wine you love will sell like hotcakes, leaving you without a bottle? Then your saving grace will be on December 17th in Rome, for the "en primeur" auction of Gelardini & Romani, with the 2012 vintages of Italy's finest - from Tenuta Ornellaia's Masseto to Monfortino and from Biondi Santi's Brunello Riserva to Antinori's Tignanello. The catalogue also includes Bordeaux's 2010 "en primeur" Grand Crus, and old vintages from Bordeaux and Burgundy.



www.vinalitytour.com

## First Page

### Italy dominates Wine Enthusiast's "Top 100"

Italian wines are confirmed top tier, according to the popular U.S. Magazine Wine Enthusiast. The number 1 wine in its 2011 "Top 100" is Marchesi de' Frescobaldi's Chianti Rufina 2007 Nipozzano Riserva, which received the sceptre from Renato Ratti's Barolo Marcesasco 2006, last year's number 1. But, in general Italy substantially improved its performance - 17 wines out of 100 compared to 2010's 15 and Tuscany in the lead. At number 7 there's the Excelsus 2007 by Castello Banfi, the leading winemaker in Montalcino, with Tua Rita's Perlatto del Bosco 2008 from Val di Cornia, on the Tuscan coast, at number 17. La Gerla's Brunello di Montalcino 2006 is at spot number 21, Canneto's Filippone 2007 at 31, Fattoria Petrolò's Galatrona 2008 at 39 and Capanna's Brunello di Montalcino 2006 at 46. First of the "non Tuscans" is Piazza Armando's Barolo 2007 from Piedmont at 49, followed by David Sterza's Amarone della Valpolicella Classico 2007 from Veneto at 51, Mocali's Brunello di Montalcino 2006 at 54 and Il Poggione's Brunello di Montalcino Vigna Paganelli 2005 at 56. This hefty Italian platoon also includes the Tuscan Sasso al Poggio 2006 by Piccini at number 60, the two Barolos Cascina Ballarin 2007 Bussia (62) and Rocche Costamagna 2007 Rocche dell'Annunziata (65), Pieropan's Soave Classico La Rocca 2009 (74), Valpantena's wine growers' Cooperative's Amarone della Valpolicella 2007 (76) and Inama's Soave Classico Vigneto du Lot 2009 from Veneto at number 80. The magazine's "Top 100", together with its "Top 100 Best Buys" of bottles under \$15, and its "Top 100 Cellar Selection", dedicated to vintage and collection wines, which gave top spot to Poggio Nardone's Brunello 2006 in 2011, is compiled using a combination of wine quality evaluation, price and availability on the main markets. Its 2011 edition "reflects the presence of Italian wines on the U.S. market," Monica Larner, Wine Enthusiast's correspondent from Italy, told Winenews, "and the number one wine is not only an award for its maker, but also for a lesser-known, typical and unique Italian territory, Chianti Rufina".

## Focus

### Italy has room to grow, says Liv-ex founder

Liv-Ex, the most important benchmark for "fine wines" investments, has many indexes - from the Liv-Ex 50, which considers only the 5 Bordeaux with the highest prices, to the Liv-Ex 100, which takes into account a wine's production volume and value. Italian wines are only 0.3% of the index, though, with Sassicaia 2006 and Ornellaia 2004, while French wines, as of July 2011, take the remaining 99.7%. This state of affairs can change, Liv-Ex founder James Miles told Winenews. "I think that Italian producers are doing everything right, the Supertuscans have a strong presence on the market and more producers are making "Bordeaux-like" wines, so I think that Italy will gain importance. When the U.S. market ruled, there was great demand, especially in secondary markets (like auctions) for Italian wines. I think that in China, the leading market now, which is growing in taste and consumer curiosity, collectors will think that these wines are sold at a tenth of a top Bordeaux, though the difference in quality is not proportional. But, Italian wines have a problem: with the growing demand, production has to keep up."



www.vinalitytour.com



OperaWine  
www.operawine.it

## Wine & Food

### The return of barter: wine and oil for a weekend of wellness...

Ten wheels of cheese for a woollen sweater, 80 litres of guarantee of origin red wine for a hedge trimmer, 50 litres of olive oil for a weekend in a beauty farm. "Do ut des", bartering, is the simplest and oldest of all methods of commerce and payment. And so, now that the flow of monetary capitals is on its knees, some are thinking about a comeback of bartering. And the CIA - one of Italy's farmers' associations - took it seriously and created a "Barter Bank" in Pisa: among the projects, there's also a website where produce that would be wasted can be bartered with other goods...

## For the record

### The new frontier of wine tourism: wine-relax

More and more hotels are adding wine to their allures, like the Cheval in Paso Robles, California, or Relais San Maurizio in Italy, which are surrounded by vineyards. Not to

mention Oporto's Yeatman, which has a full-fledged wine-therapy centre on its premises, or the Margaret River in Cape Lodge, with over 14.000 bottles in its cellars.

