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News



2018 Year of Italian Food

The Italian Food Year 2018, promoted by the Ministries of Cultural Heritage and Agricultural Policies will include events like the "White Night of Italian Food", on August 4th, dedicated to Pellegrino Artusi, a map of the excellent Italian regional products and an across-the-board communication campaign, and the week of Italian Cuisine in the World. As WineNews anticipated, a Technical Committee of 13 experts will coordinate the activities: Carlo Petrini, Oscar Farinetti, Cristina Bowerman, Massimo Bottura, Giorgio Calabrese, Marco Gualtieri, Claudia Sorlini, Enzo Coccia, Elisabetta Moro, Mauro Rosati, Massimo Montanari, Riccardo Cotarella and Raffaele Borriello.



Wine and E-commerce

E-commerce wine is a phenomenon all over the world that attracts investments (like the 20 million dollars of funding Vivino just collected, <https://goo.gl/3XTMpb>), but in Italy the numbers are still small, though they are growing and will continue to grow. Thanks go to young people, but not only, and more and more to the premium (above 12 Euros per bottle) and ultra-premium (over 25 Euros) segments. This is the panorama in Italy, while e-commerce is a decisive tool for Italian wine in China, where 30% of sales are on the web for top Italian companies like Tannico and Vino75, and on the Asian market, Alibaba (<https://goo.gl/iBev44>).

Report

Vivino sells wine in Italy

The goal is 1 billion US dollars of wine sold by 2020. This is the ambitious target of Vivino, the most widespread app dedicated to wine, founded by Heini Zachariassen, which has 29 million users worldwide and 2.3 in Italy (and recently got another 20 million dollars funding, for a total of 57 since it started in 2010), where it has launched its wine sales services, like it has in many other countries, Vivino Market and Vivino Premium services (<https://goo.gl/CuWUL6>).



First Page

Reflections on "small vintages" and evaluations

Vintage is a key aspect for great wines and so is its evaluation that often, for various reasons, is given early to wines that usually will need to rest many years in the bottle to express themselves fully and be truly understood. So, ratings attributed to vintages can be revised, in hindsight, upward or downward, a few months after the harvest, which WineNews considered and proposed during Benvenuto Brunello 2018, starting with the two years of Brunello going on the market. Five years ago, the 2013 was given "4 stars", excellent, but not outstanding, and instead in the glass narrates a great future: fruity and floral wines, with blood and mineral flavours and a tannic structure that really seem able to express itself optimally over time. On the other side, there's the 2012 Riserva, that was judged a "5-star" vintage, while today, in general, sees mature wines in the bottle and probably a shorter life. And, also for old bottles of top-level wine cellars, which even in "small" and complex years have produced wines capable of bearing the test of time and continue to surprise even today, for their vitality, quality and ability to overturn previous judgments. In the glass, wines such as Brunello di Montalcino 1965 by Padelletti, or a Brunello di Montalcino 1968 by Col d'Orcia, still have great elegance and freshness. Or, like Brunello di Montalcino 1981 (judged only a "3-star" vintage) of the Fattoria dei Barbi, or the Costanti 1984 (vintage judged only "1-star"). Of course, there are also tastings that confirm certain judgments. For instance, the legendary Brunello di Montalcino Riserva by Biondi Santi, vintages 1945 and 1955 entered the "Olympus" of world wine, or Brunello Riserva 1983 of Col d'Orcia, Brunello Riserva 1990 of Fuligni, and Brunello di Montalcino 2001 of La Cerbaiona. And then there are memories that go beyond wine and beyond time, like tasting the 1891, uncorked by the "keeper of Brunello" Franco Biondi Santi, at Tenuta Greppo, (where Brunello was created in 1800), together with the director of WineNews, Alessandro Regoli, "a simply unrepeatable experience, for which I thank you again!" (<https://goo.gl/8NwgjM>).

Focus

Montefalco, curtain up for Sagrantino 2014

Following the long parenthesis on the star of "Previews of Tuscany", Sangiovese, it is now Sagrantino's turn, which was rediscovered and relaunched by the Caprai brand in Montefalco. The 2014 Montefalco Sagrantino was unveiled at "Anteprima Sagrantino 2014" and judged, in retrospect, 3 out of 5 stars. The evaluation of the vintage was done in a different and less adventurous way, focusing more on the glass than forecasts and expectations. It was a complex harvest, where warmth, a key factor in Montefalco's most important vintages was lacking, but, in general, the winemakers dealt with it well. In the end Sagrantino, thanks to late ripening, was more than satisfying, with a series of interesting wines. In the glass, the top were Tenuta Bellafonte, Lungarotti, Adanti, Carapace of Tenuta Castelbuono (Ferrari-Lunelli), Antonelli, Perticaia, Romanelli, Tenuta Alzatura (Cecchi), Collepiano di Caprai, Bocale, 25 Years of Caprai, Colle alle Macchie by Tabarrini, Collealodole by Milziade Antano. Outside the glass, the 2017 production reached a million bottles, and the United States (26%) and Germany (10%) are the main outlet markets (<https://goo.gl/6ExDD2>).



Wine & Food

PopVi: "winery company not affected" says Zonin 1821

"The winery is not affected by the attachment that involves the defendants of the trial PopVi", reads an official note by Zonin 1821, after the confiscation ordered by the Court of Vicenza against the suspects in the investigation on Banca Popolare di Vicenza (investments held in the companies by Gianni Zonin and sold to his children). As WineNews already reported, the company explained, "these measures have no impact on the company structure of Zonin 1821; control and governance, for years, have been firmly in the hands of Domenico, Francesco and Michele Zonin".

For the record

Piedmont wine 2017

Wine production, globally, fell drastically in the 2017 harvest and the Piedmont winemakers were also put to the test as their wine production stopped at 2 million

hectolitres, 19.8% less compared to 2016. However, a report reveals that experts classify the vintage excellent for reds and very good/excellent for whites.

