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News



Rural historical landscapes

The hilly vineyards of Soave and those of Conegliano and Valdobbiadene, the dry stone walls of the Island of Pantelleria and those of Lamole, the terraced olive gardens of Vallecorsa, the piedmont olive gardens between Assisi and Spoleto, the pastoral landscapes of Moscheta and the agrarian one of the monumental olive trees in Apulia, the polyculture one in Trequanda and, finally, the regional Historic Olive Tree Park of Venafro; these are the 10 landscapes that the Ministry for Agricultural Policies has awarded the title of "Rural Historical Landscapes", officially inserting them in the national registry. "They're a unique heritage of our country", Minister Martina commented.



A library of Etna's crus

According to auction house Gelardini & Romani, Etna's wine territory has three features that give it great growth capabilities in the global wine secondary market: unique growing and winemaking conditions, the current revanche of wines with more balance and elegance and the current market saturation of the actual cream of the crop of global fine wines. There's a catch, though, and it's the lack of an historic winery, and that's why the project of creating a "library" of Etna's crus was developed - 2.840 bottles and 660 magnums from 9 wineries (Pietradolce, I Gulfi, Tenute Bosco, Calcagno, Wiegner-Puccetti, I Custodi, I Vigneri, Tenuta di Aglaea, Calabretta), to be financed by collectors (mainly Asian), who have understood the growth potential, value-wise, of the great crus of Etna in the next five years.

Report

Italy triumphs at the BWWC

Italy's star shone brightly at the 2018 Best Wine of the World Competition, as oenologist Matthieu Taunay of Capalbio winery Monteverro received the crown of best winemaker of the world, and the 2012 vintage got both the most voted wine and the most voted red wine. Bisol received the crown of best sparkling with its Bisol Private Cartizze Valdobbiadene Superiore Non Dosato, and names like Sassicaia and Barolo Cannubi Boschis Luciano Sandrone received the "People's Choice Award".



A CAMPAIGN FINANCING IN ACCORDING TO REG. EC N. 1306/2013

First Page

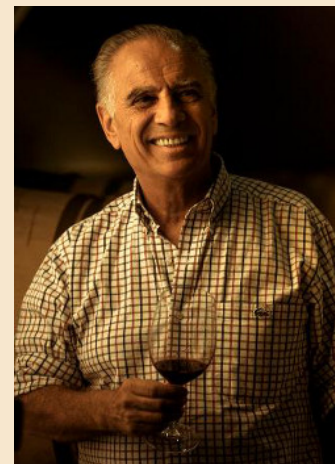
Wine, an increasingly alluring investment

Wine is a fast growing investment destination: it is graduating from a cult niche to a safe-haven asset, and Italian wine is following suit, from vineyard prices to the benchmarks of the secondary market, all the way to acquisitions and mergers. In 2017, global wine auction turnover grew 9.6%, to 371 million Dollars, and great Italian wines have performed admirably, as Italy is now third in the "Power 100" ranking of London benchmark Liv-Ex. Sassicaia is becoming the most traded wine of them all, at 7.3% market share, while Masseto is the tenth most valuable brand, at 5.136 Pounds per case price (up 23.3% y-o-y). Additionally, as a London Business School analysis confirmed, from 1900 to 2017, wine is a great investment in the long term as well. It has the second highest return on investment rate in real terms (3.8%), second only to global equities (5%) and way above stamps (below 3%), bonds (1.9%), gold and even diamonds (+0.7% and 0.5% less, respectively). Considering these facts, then, the flurry of mergers and acquisitions that took place in the Italian wine world in 2017 is indeed a different phenomenon. Starting from the investment of the Santa Margherita group in Sardinia and Lugana to the arrival of Angelo Gaja on the slopes of Mount Etna, all the way to Frescobaldi in Chianti Classico and Agricola San Felice (Allianz) in Bolgheri. 2018, moreover, seems to have begun on the same note, as Amaroni powerhouse Allegrini invested in Lugana and Antinori acquired Tenuta La Farneta. Such enthusiasm has understandably brought up the value and prices of a hectare of vineyards in top territories. According to a WineNews analysis, the top three are Brunello di Montalcino (around 700.000 Euros, 4.405% appreciation since 1967), Amarone della Valpolicella (450-600.000 in the Classic area) and Barolo (1 to 1.5 million Euros, excluding the most prestigious crus). Then come Bolgheri (450.000-600.000 Euros), Barbaresco (400-500.000 Euros), Conegliano Valdobbiadene (400-600.000 Euros), Prosecco Doc and Pinot Grigio (up to 250.000 Euros per hectare), Franciacorta and Trentodoc (300.000 and 350.000 Euros, respectively).

Focus

Oilman Bulgheroni's wine empire

The world of Italian wine is famously attractive to foreign capital, and in this sense, the 119 million Euros Argentinian oil tycoon Alejandro Bulgheroni invested (99 of those for acquisitions) are an interesting case history. In a few years, Bulgheroni Family Vineyards has put down roots in three of the most important Italian and Tuscan wine territories, for a grand total of 330 hectares of vineyards. They have 153.3 in Dievole, in Chianti Classico, 11.5 in Podere Brizio (7 for Brunello) and 67.6 of Poggio Landi (33 for Brunello) in the heart of Montalcino, 58.75 hectares at Tenuta Le Colonne and 34 at Tenuta Meraviglia, in Bolgheri. All this in less than six years, since Dievole was bought in November 2012, and Tenuta Vitanza in Montalcino in 2016, and now, comes "Phase 2" of this monumental project. The GM, Stefano Capurro, told WineNews, "we need to make a coherent business system out of these firms, in order to be able to fully manage our potential output, which is currently around 700.000 to 800.000 bottles. In 5 years or so, it'll reach 2.5 million", and turnover will see a similar growth, as it's expected to reach 4.8 billion Euros in 2018 and 8.5 by 2019-2020.



ARNALDO CAPRAI
Viticoltore in Montefalco

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Wine & Food

U.S. Oaktree investment fund to enter Caprai's textile group

According to Italian financial daily "Milano Finanza", U.S. capital management firm Oaktree Capital Management (more than 100 billion dollars in assets, and 75 out of the top 100 American pension funds among their clients) is going to invest in the imminent financial rearrangement of textiles group Caprai, which owns 50% of wool maker Carriaggi - a leading high-quality cachemire maker with a turnover of 90 million Euros - textiles maker Maglital, which also owns the Cruciani brand, and the eponymous winery of Sagrantino di Montefalco, in Umbria.

For the record

Italian cuisine at the Academy Awards

The night of the Academy Awards grows near, and the stars of Tinsel town will have their palates pampered by the all-Italian team of "Il Palato Italiano", led by executive

chef Filippo Sinisgalli, with loads of traditional Italian dishes - not to mention a "Made in Italy" gift in the form of a spaghetti kit inside their plentiful swag bags.

