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**News**



**Districts OK, wine on top**  
United we stand, divided we fall, even in economics. And, as a matter of fact, the economic districts, between 2008 and 2017, have registered a 13% increase in turnover (and +4.6% in 2017 over 2016), compared to +8.7% in the non-district areas. The agri-food districts, especially, have seen even greater growth, equal to +29.2%, thanks to the systemization of the know-how and commercial strength of PDO and PGI productions. To the extent that, 6 out of the top 20 districts for growth and profitability performance, are linked to wine & food. And, Prosecco di Conegliano Valdobbiadene (photo) is in third place overall, says the latest report by Intesa San Paolo.



**CMO still uncertain**  
It is the same old story in Italy, once again uncertainty reigns over the CMO wine promotion measures. WineNews rumors have it "that the Ministry of Agriculture, whether a new Minister is appointed or not, wants to present the decree at Vinitaly" (April 15th -18th). Nothing would be any different than last year, but it would respond, at least in terms of timing (deadline for "applications is at the end of May, and the beginning of the first projects in October), to the needs of the companies. There is a possibility that the new government will decide to start working on the decree again, and this would move the deadlines much farther ahead. Another critical element, however, is the National Support Plan, which sets the deadline for presenting applications for projects based on national funds, November 3rd.

**Report**

**Alto Adige by Suckling**  
The popularity of Alto Adige and its wines has crossed the ocean and conquered one of the most influential wine writers, James Suckling. He presented the documentary film, co-written with filmmaker James Orr "The Miracle of Alto Adige", which tells the stories of the winemakers, at the Sonoma International Film Festival. "If you think that achieving greatness can never be easy, then the producers in Alto Adige are really making great wines", said Suckling, "because working here is certainly not easy".



**First Page**

**Climate 2050, drought in 99% of Italian vineyards**  
Turin will be as "hot" as Karachi in Pakistan: this is more than likely what global warming will bring within 2100. "The forecast indicates up to five degrees increase in the average temperature across Europe, and Italian wine will have to deal with an African scenario. It will be a revolution, to the extent that it is possible to estimate world viticulture will rise to 800 meters altitude and 650 km latitude towards the North; i.e., an "upward race", to find the same climate as one hundred years ago. These are the estimates of the president of the Italian Meteorological Society, Luca Mercalli, during the conference "Sustainable vineyards for sustainable climates", held in Rome and promoted by the Alliance of Cooperatives. According to Mercalli, 68% of the Italian wine-growing area is currently subject to drought, while in 2030 it will be 89%, and in 2050, 99%. There is a possible answer to all of this, especially considering the survival of viticulture in the Mediterranean area, and Italian regions that are at risk further south, which could come from genetic research, as Professor Attilio Scienza, of the University of Milan told WineNews. "It is our goal, we are committed to finding new rootstocks (as has already been done with those of the M Series, ed.) and we are analyzing the genetic sequence of 150.000 seeds that we collected in some American states - Arizona, Texas and New Mexico - from wild vines that live in desert environments, which have evolved a series of remedies to the lack of water over millions of years. We want to cross them with our varieties, in the traditional way, with genome editing or with cis genetics, turning them into even more resistant plants. Our goal is viticulture without irrigation". Michele Morgante, of the University of Udine, head, in collaboration with the University of Milan in the genetic improvement projects of vines is also on the same wavelength. Their studies together with the Institute of Applied Genetics have developed ten resistant varieties, cultivated by Vivai Cooperativi Rauscedo. Meanwhile, working on sustainability is a must, "and all companies must play their part", said Santandrea, head of the Cooperatives wine sector.

**Focus**

**Italy, leader of "volcanic wines"**  
Standing out in an increasingly crowded wine market is definitely a priority. Therefore, "Volcanic Wines International" proposes bringing together all the most important volcanic wine areas in the world, under the guidance of the Canadian Master Sommelier John Szabo, one of the world's leading experts, as well as author of the book "Volcanic wines: salt, grit and power". They were the central issue at the first "International Volcanic Wine Conference", "which was held yesterday in New York, and in addition to telling traders and fans about the volcanic wines in the world (from Greece to Hungary, the US, Portugal and Chile), they also started working on a "Volcanic Wine Brand", in order to define these wines as a "category". Italy, of course, is a pioneer and the main player of this movement with its many territories, which were in New York: Soave (wineries such as like Prà and Suavia, among others), Etna (Benanti, Tascante of Tasca d'Almerita and Torre Mora of the Piccini Group), the Euganean Hills (Maelli, Ca' Lustra, Quota 101), Campi Flegrei (Mastroberardino and Galardi), Vulture (Bisceglia and Regio Cantina), Pitigliano, Vesuvio, and Monti Lessini, to name just a few (<https://goo.gl/VLHRhc>).



**Wine & Food**

**Auctions & wine, Pandolfini in Florence over one million euros**  
Pandolfini's "Auction of Fine and Collectible Wines" (Florence, March 22nd-23rd), totaled over one million euros, which is a remarkable goal for Italian wine auctions organized by Italian companies. The top lots were two 12-bottle assortments of Domaine de la Romanée Conti 2000 and 1995, sold for 35.525 euros each, followed by a Magnum of Richebourg Domaine Henri Jay 1986, at 24.600 euros. The top quoted lot for Italy was Masseto, 6 bottles of 2001, which sold for 5.780 euros, and then a double Magnum of Barolo Monfortino Riserva Giacomo Conterno 2002, at 4.288 euros.

**For the record**

**Zero pesticides in Italian wine**  
Italians can rest easy at the table, at least in terms of pesticides. According to controls on plant health published by the Ministry of Health (relative to 2016), there are no contaminations in wine, oil and baby food, while, instead, in fruit, vegetables, cereals and other products, cases of contamination are less than 1%.

