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**News**



**Alajmo-Bottura, top in Europe**

Which is the best restaurant in Europe? It is the three-star Michelin Schloss Schauenstein of chef Andreas Caminada, in Fürstenu, Switzerland, followed by the Swedish nordic cuisine Fäviken, of chef Magnus Nilsson, and third place goes to the Basque Etxebarri of Víctor Arguinzoniz. These are the top three on the "Top 100+ European Restaurants 2018", the Opinionated About Dining ranking that puts together the opinions of 5.700 food lovers. The top Italian restaurant is the three-starred Le Calandre of Massimiliano Alajmo in Rubano at position number 10, followed by Massimo Bottura and his Osteria Francescana di Modena at number 15.



**The Franciacorta wine stage**

Giro d'Italia has renewed its link with wine and its landscapes, once again to be the background to the most fascinating two-wheeled stage race. There are grapevines everywhere in Italy, from Valle d'Aosta to Pantelleria, but the great Italian wine names have never before received such high recognition from the "Giro". Following the Sagrantino Stage, the Chianti Classico Stage, Treviso-Valdobbiadene, Barbaresco-Barolo and the dirt road stage among the Brunello vineyards in Montalcino, on the 23rd May there will be the Franciacorta Stage, the wine-stage among the vines, key to the race for the pink jersey, and narrated by the Director of the Giro, Mauro Vegni, the President of Franciacorta Vittorio Moretti and the Deputy Director of La Gazzetta dello Sport Pier Bergonzi (<https://goo.gl/chCzS4>).

**Report**

**Italy is top for TripAdvisor**

TripAdvisor, whose data show that Rome and Florence are, globally, the most popular cities for food and wine tours, followed by Paris and Barcelona, in the world, and Sorrento, Bologna, Naples, Milan, Taormina, Palermo and Verona in Italy. Among tourists around the world, "food and wine experiences" are growing the most (+61% in 2017 on 2016), so with its wealth of wines, local products and cuisines, Italy alone could be the favorite destination.



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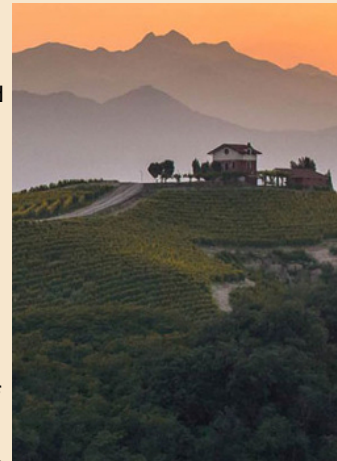
**Wine 2017: production down, consumption stable**

Wine consumption, in general, is substantially stable compared to the downslide in production that was actually expected, following the spring frosts and the summer drought that hit Europe. International trade, instead, is on the rise along with increases in values. This is, in a nutshell, the photograph taken by the "Conjoncture viticole mondiale", the Organization Internationale de la Vigne et du Vin, "the UN of wine", and presented today in Paris. In 2017, 250 million hectoliters of wine and musts were produced globally; that is, 8.6% less compared to 2016, the year that will be remembered around the world as the poorest harvest in the last 60 years. Production has dropped in all the top 10 producing countries, especially in the heart of the Old World, where, in spite of alarming production decreases, still half of the world's wine production is concentrated. Italy is the leading producer with 42.5 million hectoliters (17% less than 2016), followed by France with 36.7 million hectoliters (19% less), and Spain with 31.1 million hectoliters (15% less). The United States is in fourth place with its wine production at 23.2 million hectoliters, followed by Argentina at 14.8, Australia at 13.7, China and South Africa at 10.8 million hectoliters, and Chile at 9.5 million hectoliters. In general, there will not be a scarcity of wine, as last year's worldwide consumption was 243 million hectoliters, in line with the 2016 figure. Even though more and more countries in every part of the world are opening to wine, half of the bottles uncorked were concentrated in 5 markets. The number one market is the US, weighing for 13% of total consumption, ahead of France at 11%, then Italy, which weighs for 9%, Germany, at 8%, and China at 7%. At the same time, world wine trade grew in 2017, since 108 million hectoliters were shipped out of their country of origin, up 3.8% compared to 2016, for 30.4 billion euros (+4.8%). One of the interesting facts was that the US is the country where more wine is drunk, 31.7 million hectoliters, followed by France (27.1) and Italy (22.4), while Portugal is the country that has the highest per capita consumption, at 51.4 liters, once again ahead of France (51.2) and Italy (42.6).

**Focus**

**Conterno buys Nervi, in Gattinara**

"Mr. Monfortino", Roberto Conterno, at the helm of the prestigious Langhe winery, Giacomo Conterno, has invested in Gattinara, located in Alto Piemonte. The rumors circulating recently have been confirmed as Nervi, one of the historic cellars of the denomination, founded by Luigi Nervi in 1906, counting 27 hectares in the vineyards of Casacce, Garavoglie, Molsino, Ronchi and Valferana (which date back to 1228) has been officially purchased. And so, one of Barolo's top names (Monfortino di Conterno is one of Italy's most prestigious wines, expensive and listed in top level international auctions), has officially set foot in a territory that has its origins in Roman times, and where the prince of grapevines, Nebbiolo, takes the name of Spanna. Conterno's purchase is an investment estimated at around 5 million euros. It follows the one a few years ago in 2015, when the winery purchased 9 hectares in Serralunga d'Alba from Gigi Rosso, of which 3.5 were cultivated vineyards in Nebbiolo da Barolo, Cru Arione, one in Barbera d'Alba and another in Nebbiolo d'Alba, which have been added to the over 15 historic vineyards of the property, all in the Cascina Francia vineyard.



**Wine & Food**

**Ferrari, Ornellaia and Gaja: wines women prefer**

According to the "Spot and Web" survey, women's preferences for wine show whites (33%) and reds (31%) are more or less equal, followed by sparklings (26%). Which wines are the most loved? "Giulio Ferrari Riserva del Fondatore" of Ferrari is number one, followed by Ornellaia, Barolo Sperss by Gaja, Cartizze La Rivetta of Villasandri, Chianti Classico Gran Selezione "Castello di Brolio" of Barone Ricasoli, Soave Classico "La Rocca" of Pieropan, Ben Ryé by Donnafugata, Cor Römigberg by Alois Lageder, Verdicchio Castelli di Jesi by Villa Bucci Riserva and Ribolla Gialla "Anfora" by Gravner.

**For the record**

**Over 2 million euros for half a hectare in Barolo**

In the prestigious "cru" Cerequio a half hectare in Barolo costs over 2 million euros. This is the stellar figure, the newspaper "La Stampa" reported, the twenty-six year olds Mirco and Federica Martini paid - children of Pietro, entrepreneur for generations in the wine world - who in 2015 had already purchased the winery Gianni Voerzio.

