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News



Alto Adige for "WE"

Alto Adige is the only Italian region featured in Wine Enthusiast's "Best Wine Travel Destination 2016" ranking - and it is easy to see why, given its marvellous vineyards, in the shade of the Alps, spectacular panoramas dotted with Castles and lakes and no less than 19 "starred" restaurants (4 have two Michelin stars) in a very tiny package. Its wines include both "mineral, fresh whites and silky, velvety and robust reds", according to Italian editor Kerin O' Keefe, and come from winemakers such as Walch, Haas, Kettmeir, San Michele Appiano or Terlano, just to name a few, all under the mighty Dolomite Mountains, a UNESCO world heritage site.



The Tuscan treasure

Tuscan vineyards are still some of the most precious in Italy. According to a WineNews estimate, on the eve of "Anteprime di Toscana" (Florence, February 12th-20th, together with "Buy Wine" on Feb. 12th-13th), one hectare of vineyards in Montalcino is worth 350 to 400.000 Euros, but Bolgheri is close on its heels, at 250.000 to 300.000 Euros per hectare. In Montepulciano, one hectare of vineyards of Nobile goes for 130 to 150.000 Euros, and in Chianti Classico the price is around 120.000-130.000 (reaching 150.000 for the most prestigious areas of the denomination). Finally, one hectare of vineyards to make Morellino di Scansano goes for 100.000 Euros, and one in Chianti is worth 80.000 Euros (around 100.000 for one in Chianti Rufina).

Report

"La Vigna" library at risk

"La Vigna" library, located in Vicenza (www.lavigna.it) is one of the temples of Italian and global wine culture, counting more than 52.000 texts dedicated to agriculture, wine and vine growing. The books were collected during its founder Demetrio Zaccaria's lifetime, who passed away in 1993. The library is now at risk of closing down for economic reasons, its President, Mario Bagnara, stated. Bagnara called out for financial help to both Italian and foreign patrons, in order to save it.



First Page

2016 as seen by top Italian wine producers

WineNews asked some of Italy's top-level winemakers - like Antinori, Gruppo Italiano Vini (GIV), Marchesi de' Frescobaldi, Ferrari, Masi, Carpenè Malvolti, Banfi, Allegrini, Caprai, Marchesi di Barolo, Umani Ronchi, Tenuta San Guido and Donnafugata - their opinions and forecasts on what the trends are going to be for the year that has just begun, and they all had quite a lot to say on the matter. Italian sparklings will still firmly be at centre stage, consolidating their foothold, and will approach new markets following in the footsteps of Prosecco, while Trentodoc and Franciacorta will grow as well. 2016 will also cement the rise of rosè wines, which are not second-tier at all nowadays, but rather fully-fledged wines with a definite identity and personality (and, it should be noted, responsible for 10% of all wine sales around the globe). Great Italian reds, like Brunello di Montalcino, Barolo, Chianti Classico and Amarone della Valpolicella, to name but a few, will see their influence grow even more, especially abroad, thanks to the latest vintages, which have all been markedly above average. But, consumers will look for more poise and less oomph, with some forecasting a resurgence of white wines, easier to drink and closer to a feminine audience, which is increasingly receptive to the allure of wine in general. Organic, "green" and ecologically sustainable wines will also see their importance grow, as well as wines made from indigenous grape varieties and linked to their territory. Market-wise, 2016 will look a lot like 2015: the United States and Northern Europe front and centre. The Balkan countries could be interesting, while Asia, and particularly China, will remain a big question mark - Russia included, since foreign politics and the global economy, rather than wine, will dictate what is going to happen over there. Some moderate sign of growth, some say, might even come from the domestic market. What is definitely going to change, many said, is the way of facing new markets, with more team spirit and a united front in order to become stronger and more competitive in as many places as possible.

Focus

Fine wines outperform gold, stocks in 2015

During the past year, fine wines outperformed (or at the very least, lost less than) gold, copper and all the main international stock indexes, according to Liv-Ex data. The "Fine Wines 100" index - the most important of Liv-Ex's many - which takes into account the prices of the 100 most traded wines in the secondary market (mainly wines from the Bordeaux region, but also Italian wines, like Masseto 2010, Sassicaia 2009 and 2010, Ornellaia 2009 and 2010 and Solaia 2010) has gone down a mere 0.1%. Still a loss, but a far cry from what happened on the main international stock markets: London's FTSE 100 index dropped 4.9% in 2015, and New York's S&P 500 dropped 0.73%. Gold has done even worse, with a 5.4% drop in 2015, and copper has plummeted, losing 27.9% of its value in a single year. Furthermore, the "Italy 100" index (which contains the last 10 vintages of Masseto, Ornellaia, Sassicaia, Solaia, Tignanello, Barbaresco and Langhe Sori Tildin Gaja, Barolo Vigne Luciano Sandrone, Messorio Le Macchiole and Redigaffi Tua Rita) has done even better than the "Fine Wines 100" index, closing 2015 with 0.7% growth.



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ARNALDO CAPRAI
Viticoltore in Montefalco

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MONTEFALCO SAGRANTINO

Wine & Food

"Identità golose": top chefs meet "The Strength of Freedom"

The 12th edition theme of the international cuisine conference, "Identità Golose" is going to be "The Strength of Freedom", founder Paolo Marchi told WineNews. More than 100 of Italy's and the world's greatest chefs will attend, like Italian masters Bottura, Crippa, Romito, Alajmo, Cracco and Scabin and their foreign counterparts Matt Orlando (Denmark), Matthew Kenney (USA), Isaac McHale (UK), Ricard Camarena (Spain), Carlos Garcia (Venezuela) and Richard Toix (France). The fair will take place next March 6th-8th in Milan (www.identitagolose.it).

For the record

Record 2015 for Italy in the U.S., says IWFI

According to the latest data from the Italian Wine & Food Institute, led by Lucio Caputo, Italian wine has done well in the States, even in the face of a downward trend. Exports

reached more than 2.5 million hectoliters, and were worth more than 1.3 billion dollars, with an average price for bottled wines of 5.2 dollars.

