

News



Orvieto's "Renaissance"

The Consortium of Orvieto DOC aims to trigger its "Renaissance" with the "Orvieto DiVino" event, that hinges on wine as the centrepiece of a project with breathtaking sceneries, cultural masterpieces, a remarkable production history and wine & food culture. The scientific committee is top-notch, with names such as Oscar Farinetti, Bruno Vespa, Mario Morcellini, Enzo Vizzari and Antonio Paolini. Riccardo Cotarella, President of Assoenologi and "Godfather" of the project, said it is a "teambuilding" process that involves the whole territory, "and an exceptional political connection: the Regional authority, with its PSR funds, the Municipality and the Consortium".



Fine queries

According to data regarding the most searched for wines on the fine wine index Liv-ex between January and July of this year, Bordeaux still dominates with its Premiers Crus (Château Lafite Rothschild, Château Mouton Rothschild, Château Haut-Brion, Château Margaux and Château Latour) at the top and two Italians in the top 50 (Sassicaia at 22 and Masseto at 46). But, if one looks at the queries geographically, the picture holds quite a few surprises: in the States, the most important wine market in the world (not to mention the most important, both in value and in volume, for the entire Italian wine world), Brunello di Montalcino Altesino 2010 is right at the top, while in Switzerland Sassicaia 2010 was second, "bested" only by Cristal 2007.

Report

"Mr. Facebook" and Bottura

Mark Zuckerberg, founder and CEO of Facebook, has decided not to miss the chance of visiting the number 1 restaurant in the world, Massimo Bottura's "Osteria Francescana" in Modena, during his Italian "grand tour", followed by a visit to the balsamic vinegar producer Acetaia San Donnino. Bottura tweeted a photo of him together with the Zuckerbergs, with this caption: "I love my job, especially when I meet amazing people who have changed the world but remain humble and kind".

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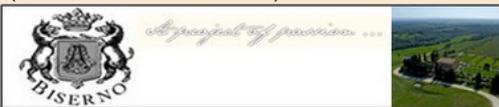
Whites growing fast in Italian and global vineyards

White grape varieties are growing fast all around the world and according to the University of Adelaide Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Airen, Tempranillo and Chardonnay are the ones that are cultivated the most. In Italy the varieties that are growing most are, on the other hand, Glera - the variety base for Prosecco - and Pinot Grigio, following Sangiovese, the Trebbianos, Catarratto and Montepulciano (data from "Corriere Vinicolo" magazine, by Unione Italiana Vini). This, in a nutshell, is the snapshot of world vineyards today that WineNews created thanks to a chat with Eugenio Sartori, General Director of Vivai Rausco, the leading producer of vine shoots in the world (75 million per year, currently). "We are used to seeing the wine world as being composed by important wines and names. Wine consumption, though, where really big numbers come into play, is fed and sustained by varieties like the Spanish Airen, which, even if it is grown less than a few years ago, is still the vital component for easy wines with a very low price. When it comes to this kind of wine production", Sartori pointed out, "Spain is still undisputedly king. Wine consumption, at the end of the day, always goes up or down in connection with purchasing power, and in times like these, varieties good for making low-tier wines, like our Trebbiano, may very well come back to centre stage". The white varieties, moreover, are those that are growing the most. "This trend", Sartori told WineNews, "is particularly noticeable here in Italy, where demand is exploding particularly for Glera and Pinot Grigio, especially in the northeast, because other crops are not profitable anymore, and therefore growers are generally moving towards grapes. Naturally, there are many other reasons, ranging from changing consumption habits, which tend to favour lighter wines, to increasingly harder alcohol laws, to the eternal trends and fads that inhabit the wine world. But overall, Italian vineyards are stationary, since re-plantings are mainly used to fix older vineyards and sick plants. Some regions, however, and Veneto above all else, are planting more and more grapes".

Focus

Good prospects for 2016 sparklings

When it comes to the 2016 harvest, optimism is the key word among Italian sparkling regions, like Franciacorta, Oltrepò Pavese, Asti Docg, Trentodoc, Prosecco Doc and Conegliano Valdobbiadene Docg. The grapes are very healthy and quantities should be about the same as last year - but it all hinges on the weather. Silvano Brescianini, VP of the Consortium of Franciacorta, said, "it will be a Nordic vintage, very elegant, like 2008", and Michele Rossetti, President of the Consortium of Oltrepò, concurs: "We will be done by next week, but so far, it is a textbook vintage". Ditto in Trentodoc, with quantities dropping only slightly compared to 2015 and very good grapes. In the Asti area, they "are perfectly healthy: no diseases to speak of", said Giorgio Bosticco, Director of the Consortium of Asti Docg. When it comes to Prosecco the harvest will begin around the 15th-20th, but according to Enrico Zanette and Innocente Nardi, the Presidents of the Consortiums of Prosecco and Conegliano, the grapes are extremely healthy. Production should be around the same as last year for the DOCG, and around 10% more for the DOC (around 500 million bottles).



Wine & Food

Tommasi acquires majority stake in Paternoster

Tommasi Family Estates, the historic wine group in Valpolicella (www.tommasi.com), has acquired the majority stake in Paternoster, the renowned producer of Aglianico del Vulture of Barile, "20 hectares of vineyards overall and a yearly production of 150.000 bottles, and we plan on making more", President Dario Tommasi told WineNews. The Paternoster family will remain in the firm, although, Tommasi pointed out, "our aim is to become the sole owner in the long run". Together with Valpolicella, Oltrepò, Montalcino and Manduria, the group now controls over 550 hectares.

For the record

Pinot Grigio heads towards its DOC

Pinot Grigio delle Venezie DOC, as a denomination, is a step closer to becoming reality, after this week's meeting in Verona regarding production rules. According to the

latest combined data, it will have a potential yearly output of around 300.000 bottles - 90% of all Italian Pinot Grigio - and more than 24.500 hectares of vineyards.

