

News



Bacchus' best hot springs

From Terme della Salvarola, in Sassuolo, for a massage with fresh Grasperossa grapes, to Tuscany, in Siena's Borgo Scopeto Relais, deep in the heart of Chianti, with therapies with Borgonero wines, or Bagno Vignoni's Adler Thermae, with a "Brunello Rite" made of tastings and face masks, all the way to Umbria, with Spa Bella Uve of resort Le Tre Vaselle in Torgiano (owned by the Lungarotti family) with "Wine Dream" and "Hammam di... vinum", and Sicily, at Therasia Resort Sea & Spa, on the island of Vulcano, for therapies with Malvasia grapes: these are the five best places in Italy for "wine therapy", according to www.gogoterme.com.

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Italian wine worries over EU CMO funds

If the promotion funds of the European Union's CMO initiative were to be distributed late, according to the national ranking (30 out of the 100 million Euros given to Italy every year), Italian wine would suffer dearly, since it's a sector that thrives thanks to exports. And, should that money go back to Bruxelles, because it wasn't possible to use it, it would be an unmitigated disaster. Thankfully, the latter possibility is quite remote - but the former isn't. Therefore, the entire sector is worried, and rightly so, after the appeals and cease & desist orders put forward by some who were left out of the ranking: according to them, some of those that are in the ranking have formed temporary associations just to get in the ranking itself, since new subjects were highly favoured over past recipients, but did receive European CMO funds in previous years, albeit on their own. A document, signed by some of the sector's trade unions, is already making the rounds, asking the Ministry of Agriculture for a rapid response, since as of now, the entire ranking is frozen, even for those who have done everything right and have nothing to do with the appeals. Moreover, according to some, chaos would rapidly ensue in regional rankings as well (which distribute the remaining 70 million). "We already had doubts on the whole thing", Federvini President Sandro Boscaini commented, "since we understood that the criteria regarding new recipients was a touchy subject: in our productive system it is simply impossible to see 50 to 100 new firms trying their hand at exporting every year. A freezing of these funds would be untenable". According to Antonio Rallo, at the helm of Unione Italiana Vini, "we have little time to prevent this, and ensure that both national and regional funds are given to the rightful recipients". "We're hoping that, at least, the funds can be unlocked for those that have nothing to do with these appeals", Riccardo Ricci Curbastro, at the helm of Federdoc, added, and Mario Guidi, President of farmers association Confagricoltura, stated that "it's chaos: we've written to Minister Martina on the matter. Firms cannot wait".

Focus

Slow Food, the world "invade" Turin

"I hope that food culture will become the paradigm for a new economy, one that is ethical and careful of ecosystems, without humiliating the weak": this is the future of Slow Food according to its founder, Carlin Petrini, as he told it to WineNews for "Terra Madre Salone del Gusto" (until Sept. 26th, www.salonedelgusto.com), with the theme "Loving Earth". "Because", Petrini explained, "it means taking care of it, with kindness and love". When one speaks of food systems, one must take into account different traditions, cultures, societies, religions, economic differences and, increasingly, ecological ones too - but food can change that, by fighting waste, land overuse and land grabbing, criminal enterprises and counterfeiting, through science, eco-gastronomy and agroecology, communication and diplomacy. These are all themes that will feature prominently during the "Salone", with protagonists of society and culture like Father Ciotti, founder of "Libera", biodynamic winemaker Nicolas Joly, activist Josè Bové and economist Serge Latouche. "But the real strength", Petrini concluded, "lies in the over 5.000 delegates of Food Communities from the world over".



The result of China's "9/9"

According to Chinese ecommerce behemoth Alibaba, "Italy, Spain, France, Germany, Austria, Belgium and Chile were the top countries in sales" during its "Tmall 9.9 Global Wine & Spirits Festival" day, the first event entirely dedicated to wine and alcoholic beverage organized by the platform created by Jack Ma to promote the growing popularity of imported alcoholic beverages in China. No figures were released at all, though, and not even the total revenue of the sales day, after months of media coverage - a process that began at this year's Vinality, with both Jack Ma and Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi. Still, given the fact that the event was very publicized, one can only hope that Italian wine benefited from this promotion in the largest of all Asian countries.

Report

WS awards Italian wine

The readers of "Wine Spectator" magazine have chosen Italy as the winner of both gold and silver of the publication's 2016 "Wine Spectator Video Contest": "A Nebbiolo's Story" (<http://bcove.me/r3jnfkku>), the tale of Piedmontese winemaker Giuseppe Vajra, is in first place, and "I Wish You Were Here With Me" (<http://bcove.me/4vbrfzww>), a walk in the vineyards of Pinot Grigio in Terlato, Friuli, with vine pruner Marco Simonit, is right behind on the podium.

Wine & Food

Brunello tops Luca Gardini's 2016 "Best Italian Wine Awards"

Ten Brunello di Montalcino (with the acclaimed 2010 vintage, but also 2011 and even 2012, yet to be released to the general public), including the very top spot, with Cerretalto 2010 Casanova di Neri - the last vintage made in collaboration with renowned Italian oenologist Carlo Ferrini - while Fiorduva Furore Bianco 2014 Costa d'Amalfi Doc Marisa Cuomo and Sassicaia 2013 Tenuta San Guido got silver and bronze, followed by 8 Barolo: these are the results of the 2016 "Best Italian Wine Awards" ranking, created by Luca Gardini and Andrea Grignaffini, which focuses on the best 50 Italian wines.

For the record

Donnafugata expands to Etna and Vittoria

Renowned Sicilian winemaker Donnafugata has expanded from Marsala, Contessa Entellina and Pantelleria (where it recently acquired Cantina Nuova

Agricoltura), with 15 hectares active on the slopes of Etna and 18 in Vittoria. "An important step, which will develop gradually", Josè and Antonio Rallo commented.



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