

News



Vivino loves Sassicaia, Tuscany

According to the 21 million users of the wine app Vivino, on the 2016 ranking of the very best wines in the world, the king of the hill is Sassicaia 1985 Tenuta San Guido (Bolgheri). Furthermore, there are two other Italians in the top 10, and they are Amarone della Valpolicella Classico 2000 Giuseppe Quintarelli (8) and Masetto 2004 (10). Peculiarly enough, foreign users love Italian wine, but Italians seem to prefer Champagne, as 5 wines out of 10 are French, together with Sassicaia 2007 (2), Ornellaia 2011 Tenuta dell'Ornellaia (4), Masetto 2012 (7), Fiorduva Costa d'Amalfi 2012 Marisa Cuomo (8) and Valtellina 5 Stelle Sfursat 2011 Nino Negri (10).



When teamwork wins

Going it alone oftentimes is not the right way: it's better to group up around common values, like maximum quality, and promote together. This is what the experience of the Italian Signature Wines Academy - ISWA tells us, founded by seven top Italian winemakers (Allegrini and Villa Sandi in Veneto, Caprai in Umbria, Feudi di San Gregorio in Campania, Fontanafredda in Piedmont, Marchesi de Frescobaldi in Tuscany and Planeta in Sicily). It is a sort of "National Team" of Italian wine, with more than 2.600 hectares of vineyards, 50 million bottles and over 260 million Euros in turnover (80% from exports). The Academy now has a new member, winemaker Masciarelli from Abruzzi, founded by the late Gianni Masciarelli and now led by his wife Marina Cvetic (www.iswacademy.com).

Report

Sicily & "The Enthusiast 100"

Five Sicilian wines (four from Etna) are on the 2016 "The Enthusiast 100" ranking, which comprises the very best wines in the world for "Wine Enthusiast". The first Italian wine, at spot 3, is Etna Rosso 2014 Benanti, followed by Pithos Rosso 2014 Cos (8) and Alta Mora 2014 Cusumano (12). Then come, among others, Barbaresco Sanadaive 2013 Adriano Marco e Vittorio (15), Calvarino Soave Classico 2013 Pieropan (19) and Brunello di Montalcino 2011 Le Potazzine (25), for a total of 16 Italian wines.

First Page

Assoenologi: 2016 harvest "good and plentiful"

The 2016 harvest in Italy will yield 51.5 million hectolitres of wine, 2% more compared to 2015, and it is going to be the most plentiful one in the last 10 years in our country. In all probability, it will be uniform, quality-wise, "but it's going to be an interesting one nonetheless, and those wines that reaped the fruits of an excellent September and October are going to be the most interesting of them all. 2016 had moderate levels of water and heat stress, and it will favour quality productions for those that have managed yields efficiently". This is the opinion of the Italian national oenologist association Assoenologi, led by Riccardo Cotarella, on the matter. Furthermore, according to the oenologists association, between 6.8 and 7.2 billion kilos of grapes will be produced, and that, applying a 73% average conversion ratio, will mean between 50 and 52 million hectolitres of wine. Abruzzi (3.3 million hectolitres) and Apulia (8.8 million) are the Regions with the most notable growth in production year-over-year, between 10% and 15%, followed by Veneto, at 7% more (the most productive Region, 10.4 million hectolitres), Piedmont (3% more, 2.54 million hectolitres), and Emilia Romagna (7.6 million hectolitres). On the other hand, Campania (1.2 million hectolitres) dropped 20% in production over 2015, followed by Trentino Alto Adige (1.1 million), Friuli Venezia Giulia (1.7 million hectolitres), Tuscany (2.6 million hectolitres), Lazio and Umbria (2.3 million) and Sicily (5.8 million hectolitres) with drops between 5% and 7%. Only Marche (960,000 hectolitres) and Sardinia (790,000 hectolitres) will make as much wine as they did in 2015, more or less. Quality-wise, says Assoenologi, "Italy was cut in half during the harvest. Little rain and good thermal excursion in September in northern Italy and in the two major islands have favoured the harvest, but the same cannot be said for southern Italy, where rains were abundant, and in many cases above average. Overall, it's going to be a good year, with peaks of quality in the areas where bad weather caused little problems, and where plants were assisted correctly throughout".

Focus

Feudi di San Gregorio expands to Bolgheri

Feudi di San Gregorio, originally in Irpinia, expanded to Basilicata with Basilisco in 2010, then to Apulia, with Ognissolle in Manduria and Cefalicchio in Canosa di Puglia between 2012 and 2014, then to Friuli, with a 49% stake in Sirch, the family firm of Pierpaolo Sirch, CEO of Feudi di San Gregorio, then a joint venture with sommelier Federico Graziani on Mount Etna, under the supervision of Salvo Foti and now, the firm led by Antonio Capaldo has gone all the way to Bolgheri. The project is Campo delle Comete, 15 hectares of vineyards (for an investment of over 10 million Euros), production of the grape varieties that have made that territory great (Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Syrah and Petit Verdot) that should reach 150.000 bottles by 2017, a winery and a hospitality structure, in a garden-estate that will be open to wine lovers, in the former Tenuta le Pavoniere of the Guicciardini Strozzi family. "We're proud to be the first firm in southern Italy to invest in such a prestigious territory", Capaldo commented, "and we want to help it grow. As for the future, if at all possible, we'd like to plant more on our own estates, and we don't plan any more acquisitions for now".



Wine & Food

Wine, cuisine and culture in Italian society

"Wine and cuisine are an integral part of Italian society, and have grown exponentially, especially in recent decades and they could not be excluded from a book on the evolution of Italian society". This is how Italian TV anchor-man Bruno Vespa (and winemaker, with his "Futura 14" winery in Apulia) explained why, in "C'eravamo tanto amati - Amore, politica, riti e miti", he chose to dedicate two chapters to wine and food. The changes these two worlds have undergone are narrated by names such as Gualtiero Marchesi, Giorgio Pinchiorri and Riccardo Cotarella, among others.

For the record

2017 "an unknown variable", Wine Monitor says

According to Wine Monitor (www.winemonitor.it) estimates of wine purchases on the 8 main global markets (two thirds of all imports), 2016 is not going to be a great year,

since up to September, bottled still wine imports have gone down, and 2017, between Brexit and the Trump presidency, could bring dire tidings for Italian wine...

