

News



Prosecco & the UNESCO race

After the official backing of the Italian Ministry of Agriculture, the candidacy of the wine landscapes of Prosecco di Conegliano e Valdobbiadene (the area where Prosecco DOCG is made) on the 2017-2018 list of UNESCO World Heritage sites has also received the unanimous vote of the Italian National Commission for UNESCO this week. "We wish to affirm", Minister Maurizio Martina commented, "through this candidacy, the great cultural and environmental value that our agriculture has, especially in exceptional territories, such as the hills of Conegliano and Valdobbiadene". The final answer on the matter will come no sooner than 2018.



The "organic" storm

The "organic" phenomenon is storming the wine world, especially in Europe, where organic vineyards grew 11.7%, to 281.000 hectares in 2015, reaching 8% of the total - 90% are in Spain (95.591, 9%), Italy (83.642, 10%) and France (68.565, 9%). China and the U.S. are the main markets, with imports reaching 168 million hectolitres for the latter in 2014, to 121.3 million Dollars (2.5% of all imports). According to a study by Siena University, the GDP of "sustainable" wines will reach 4 billion Euros, with a total wine GDP of 12.1 billion Euros. And according to a study by the University of California, an organic label has 4.1 points higher score than a "normal one" - finally, "Organic Authority" has compiled a list of 103 organic wines for 2017, and 19 are Italian (<https://goo.gl/ZnvjLx>).

Report

Record 2016 for Liv-Ex

It's been a good year for Liv-Ex, the benchmark of the fine wines market, with a 12-month growth that has led the Liv-Ex 100 index to its new record: 297.33 points. And, this is due to the great wines of Bordeaux, as the five Premiers Crus are on top of the index and responsible for 35.54% of all exchanges. Still, Sassicaia "moved" the most bottles, 1.624 cases, for a total of 19.488 bottles, more than Lafite Rothschild (1.047 cases), Mouton Rothschild (855), Haut-Brion (759) and Latour (651).

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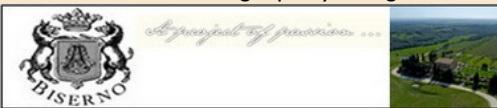
Vivino's very best Italian wines

User-generated rankings are growing increasingly more important in the modern world of wine, and the one recently compiled by Vivino, "Vivino's 2017 Wine Style Awards", is definitely no exception, as over 21 million users of the famous app were the collective judges of this competition. Obviously, more than one category is dedicated to Italian wine, and examining the rankings, it appears that there are no spectacular differences between the rankings of "old-fashioned" wine critics and smartphone-toting wine lovers at large. According to Vivino users, the best "Red of Central Italy" is Masseto 2010, followed by Solaia 1997 Antinori, while the best white of the same region is Cambrugiano Verdicchio di Matelica Riserva 2011 Cantine Belisario, which is followed by Trebbiano d'Abruzzo 2010 Valentini and by Cervaro della Sala 2011 Castello della Sala Antinori. Additionally, when it comes to the great Italian denominations, for Amarone della Valpolicella, Amarone della Valpolicella Classico 2000 Quintarelli is firmly in the top spot, and for Barolo, there is Monfortino Riserva 2008 Giacomo Conterno, followed by Falletto 2007 Bruno Giacosa and by Brunate Le Coste 2008 Giuseppe Rinaldi. The "Vivino's 2017 Wine Style Awards" for Barbaresco, on the other hand, has understandably gone to Barbaresco 2001 Gaja, while the best Barbera is La Bolognina Barbera d'Asti 2007 Scarpa. Going down to Tuscany, the very best Brunello di Montalcino is Brunello di Montalcino Riserva 2004 Case Basse Soldera, followed by Madonna delle Grazie 2010 Il Marroneto and by Cerretalto 2010 Casanova di Neri. When it comes to Bolgheri wines, meanwhile, the undoubtedly great Sassicaia 1985 Tenuta San Guido is on top of the podium, ahead of Ornellaia 2008 and Vendemmia d'Artista Special Edition 2012, both by Tenuta dell'Ornellaia. The best Chianti Classico is Gran Selezione 2010 Castello di Meleto, while the very best Nobile di Montepulciano is Asinone 2011 Polignano. Regarding whites, Soave is on a roll, with Soave Pieve Vecchia 2012 Fasoli Gino on top of the podium.

Focus

Amarone on a global rise

Amarone della Valpolicella, one of Italy's most important wines, is the cornerstone of the economic growth of its territory. Collectively, the turnover of the "Amarone system" (286 firms who bottled around 110.000 hectolitres every year between 2010 and 2016) has grown 5% over 2015, to 330 million Euros, thanks to exports, which make 65% of the market, up 3%, but also to domestic markets, which is worth 10% of the total. The numbers come from a study by Wine Monitor on the weekend of "Anteprima Amarone 2013", counting 78 firms showcasing the 2013 vintage. According to Christian Marchesini, President of the Consortium, "Grape growing firms have gone down, and winemaking firms have grown in number. They are consolidating as well, as there are 2.000 extra hectares since 2006". Exports-wise, the main markets are Germany (18%), the States (11%), Switzerland (11%) the UK (10%), Canada (7%) and Sweden (7%), while Asia is only 5% of the market. Regarding the 2013 vintage, according to first impressions, it is defined as having intense hues and being rich in aromas and alcohol, with a great potential for aging: overall, a medium- to high-quality vintage for Amarone.



ARNALDO CAPRAI

Viticoltore in Montefalco

CAMPAIGN FINANCED ACCORDING TO EC REGULATION N.1306/13

Wine & Food

Promotion, good numbers ahead for Italian wine in the U.S.

According to the figures released by Italy's Institute for Foreign Commerce (ICE) in New York, elaborated from those of the U.S. Dept. Of Commerce, a grand total of 2.9 million hectolitres of Italian wine arrived Stateside between Nov. 2015 and Nov. 2016 (up 3.3% year-over-year), worth 1.65 billion Dollars (up 5.9%). A good omen for the "Vino 2017: Italian Wine Week" event, organized by ICE, which will take place in New York on Feb. 6th and in Miami on Feb. 8th, including seminars by Vinitaly International Academy, as well as tastings and meetings with importers and buyers.

For the record

Good numbers for global wine to 2020

The global wine market grew between 2010 and 2015, and according to a report by the Study Group of cooperative association Confcooperative, it will do so until 2020, especially for reds (up 17.7% in value and 10.4 in volume) and sparklings (up 15.4%-16.9%), but whites (up 11.2%-11.8%) and rosés (9.3%-10.9%) will do well too.

