

News



Monsieur Daverio and wine

"Amarone", Italian art critic Philippe Daverio said at "Anteprima Amarone", "is one of Italy's most Baroque wines, it's everything that is slightly too much, because this too much is never enough for us". According to him, "a different Europe is needed, and I think it should be centred on the following article: Europe is the western peninsula of Asia, and it is founded on wine. I put forward the proposal to find a Minister of Cultural Assets from the wine world, in order to unite creativity, projects and products. And this, in the end, is what Italian wine has done indeed, generating wealth, since all agricultures that do so have saved Italy from the devastation of the construction industry".



Soave, only in Soave

From now on Soave will be bottled only in its production area, in order to guarantee that all necessary checks regarding certifications and quality will take place, especially considering foreign markets. The unanimous decision was made this week by the board of the Consortium of Soave, which also started the procedure to modify the production document. "2016 was a good year for Soave too", Consortium President Arturo Stocchetti declared, "53 million bottles sold, 85% of them abroad. And this is why we've made this decision on bottling, because packaging, especially in foreign markets, was creating problems for our wineries". Soave's decision is increasingly common among great Italian denominations, like Chianti and DOC Sicilia.

Report

"Zero emission" Nobile

By 2020, the Consortium of Nobile di Montepulciano, in Tuscany, aims to have a certification on each of the bottles its members produce to demonstrate the "zero emission" footprint of their collective productive cycle. This will happen through a Platform, developed by the Marconi University in Rome, which will both sustain innovative processes in winemaking firms and promote the exchange of data, know-how and positioning on markets, all focused on sustainability.



First Page

Sustainability and first tastings for 2013 Amarone

Amarone della Valpolicella is undoubtedly loved the world over: 65% of total production goes abroad, and for American wine lovers it is almost synonymous with Italian wine, being considered classic and versatile at the same time by many. The United States are its first non-EU market, at 11%, behind Germany at 18%, and it still is the main driver of its territory's economic growth, with a 2016 turnover that has gone up 5% year-over-year, reaching around 330 million Euros in total. The world of Amarone della Valpolicella, furthermore, is also investing heavily in the sustainability of its viticulture, since it is a factor that is increasingly more important for both consumers and for those who make wine, and live, in areas where there are a lot of vineyards. And this drive towards sustainability, led by the Consortium, has not begun just today, since the "Reduce, Save, Respect" project, which will allow the 2016 vintage bottles to have the "RRR" mark on them, and a certification by Siqua, was started no less than five years ago. "The objective of the Consortium", Christian Marchesini, its President, told WineNews on the subject, "is to have wines that are both healthier and more socially sustainable". Remarkably, for the first time in Italy, a Consortium has been one of the certifying authorities of the sustainability of a winemaking process, and - another remarkable new development - all this has been done in open agreement with local administrative authorities. "The project has involved 30 wineries and 500 hectares in its first year", Consortium Director Olga Bussinello pointed out, "but our objective is to certify 60% of all vineyards in the next two years. We hold this process dear, as Austria is the only other EU country that is doing the same right now". The future, then, looks rosy indeed for Amarone - but going back to right now, the 2013 vintage has been showcased in Verona last week, during "Anteprima Amarone", and the best tastings of WineNews have been Valpantena Bertani, La Rosta Degani, Campi Lunghi I Campi, Masua di Jago Recchia, Ca' de Rocchi - La Bastia Tinazzi, Farina, Vigneti di Ettore and Villa Mattielli.

Focus

Brunello by Tancredi Biondi Santi

"Brunello di Montalcino is a successful wine, but it's partly "misunderstood", because it doesn't follow normal criteria. The same goes for Barolo. Brunello must be explained by using great patience, dedication and knowledge, by uncorking many bottles, also from old vintages, because it is a great wine for aging, and it arrives on the market with more years on its back than other important wines in the world. It is a wine that can be loved only by those who know it deeply, and this can be done only through a solid education in the Italian winemaking tradition". This is how young Tancredi Biondi Santi, member of the seventh generation of the family that works at Tenuta Greppo, where Brunello di Montalcino was created, explained his opinion on the great red to WineNews. Brunello is undoubtedly a successful wine, but it could grow more: "I'd like", Tancredi continued, "to create a learning project for world consumers in order to comprehend wines like Brunello that must be approached in a different way. We want to educate people, because we're increasingly more aware that some of the best wines they have in their cellars come from us".



Wine & Food

Planting rights for 2017, the version of Veneto

Veneto, one of the most important Italian wine regions, has officially decided the criteria to distribute the authorization for new vineyards regarding 2017, after the embarrassing disaster in 2016 - when 12.500 applications for 66.000 hectares were presented nationally, for a grand total of 6.300 hectares. This year, then, Venetian wineries that have less than 20 hectares of total surface will have priority: a healthy signal, since it comes from the same region that had the most requests last year, totaling 34.677 hectares out of a mere 805 available.

For the record

Villa Sandi invests in vineyards

Prosecco producer Villa Sandi, led by Giancarlo Moretti Polegato, has acquired the former Plotzner estates in Spilimbergo, in the territories of the Prosecco denomination, which include 50 hectares of vineyards. It now has over 160, and the 2016 turnover has gone up 20% year-over-year, reaching 88.7 million Euros.

