

News



A new record for 2016 exports

Italian wine & food exports reached an all-time high in 2016 of 38.4 billion Euros (up 4%). The confirmation comes from ISTAT data, and according to the Institute, two thirds go towards EU countries, but the first market beyond European borders is the States, at 3.8 billion (up 6%). Wine is still the main product there, at 1.3 billion Euros in value, and notable performances in France (up 5%, and sparklings up 57%), the States (3% more), Australia (up 14%) and Spain (1% more). According to Roberto Moncalvo, President of farmers association Coldiretti, the record "reflects the great potential of Italian wine & food" - but "Italian sounding" and counterfeiting are still big problems.



"Gentleman"s "Top 100"

Sassicaia 2013, Ornellaia 2013, Solaia 2013, Tignanello 2013 and I Sodi di San Niccolò 2012 are the five best Italian wines, according to the "Top 100" ranking created by "Gentleman" magazine published by Class Editori. The ranking cross-referenced the scores given by the six main Italian guides (Gambero Rosso, Veronelli, Bibenda, Vitae, Maroni and Cernilli) with those of "Wine Spectator", "The Wine Advocate" and James Suckling - some of the most influential voices in the world. If one cross-references the Italian guides, Sassicaia 2013 is still on top, followed by Primitivo di Manduria ES 2014 Gianfranco Fino, San Leonardo 2011 Tenuta San Leonardo, Ornellaia 2013 and Kurni 2014 Oasi degli Angeli, tied - as are, at spot 5, Tignanello 2013, I Sodi di San Niccolò 2012 and Solaia 2013.

Report

An organic Unified Law

The Agriculture Commission of the Italian House has approved yesterday a Unified Law on organic agriculture, unifying all laws on animal and vegetable production, labelling, checks and certifications. The sector counts over 1.5 billion hectares and 60.000 firms in Italy (3.6% of the total), and is growing rapidly. The MPs Massimo Florio and Alessandra Terrosi consider it "an important step to achieve an organic text that people have been waiting for, for years".

First Page

Prosecco maker Ruggeri becomes German

Prosecco is the most successful Italian wine in recent years, and after conquering the world, it is bringing important foreign capital to its territory of origin. The German beverage and sparkling giant Rotkäppchen-Mumm (250 million bottles between still and sparkling wines, worth 50% of the domestic market, and spirits, with a turnover of over 900 million Euros) has officially acquired, as WineNews had anticipated, the historic Prosecco winery, Ruggeri. The firm was founded in 1950 by Giustino Bisol, is now managed by his son Paolo, and is one of the most prestigious winemakers of the Conegliano Valdobbiadene Superiore DOCG denomination, quality-wise, with an estimated turnover of over 10 million Euros. The Bisol family will remain in the firm to manage it, and will lend its know-how to Rotkäppchen-Mumm - which, in turn, aims to create a synergy that will strengthen its position on the German market and help its growth on foreign markets. One of the factors that helped close this deal (which was finalized for an undisclosed sum), as pointed out by Christof Queisser, CEO of Rotkäppchen-Mumm, is the fact that, even if the two firms are very different in terms of dimension, "they are both family businesses, and they are both looking towards a future with their goal being the highest quality". After all, the quality and prestige of Ruggeri in the world of Prosecco are renowned, both among Italian wine critics (Giustino B. 2015 has, for example, won the special prize for "Sparkling wine of the year" in the 2017 edition of the "Vini d'Italia" guide by Gambero Rosso publishing group) as well as international ones - with the same wine scoring 92/100 points from "The Wine Advocate" magazine, the highest score of all denomination wines. Therefore, Ruggeri is a prized name, boasting a yearly production of around one million bottles, between Prosecco DOC and Prosecco DOCG and 40% going abroad to 35 different countries. According to the firm, "traditionally, around one hundred growers provide grapes of Prosecco Superiore DOCG. Almost all of them have vineyards in the municipality of Valdobbiadene, and 25 also have Cartizze grapes".

Focus

"Stars" in French, Italian wineries

Wine and haute cuisine, a match made in heaven, and one that sometimes sees the former enter into the gilded and exclusive group of Michelin stars. From Italy to France, the world of wine is betting on that. At "Piazza Duomo" in Alba, the three stars for Enrico Crippa represent the apex of the project created by the family of Barolo producers Ceretto. "Locanda Margon", in Trento, has two stars, and is owned by Ferrari's Lunelli family, while "L'Andana", the Maremma estate of Terra Moretti, hosts the starred kitchen of Enrico Bartolini "La Trattoria". In Venissa, the Venetian island brought up to its glory by Prosecco maker Bisol, there are four chefs - Joksimovic, Rizzo, D'Oria and Baiano - and a star. In 2000, Allegra Antinori founded "Osteria di Passignano", a starred restaurant in the Chianti Classico vineyards, while Campania's Feudi di San Gregorio winery hosts "Marennà" - one star, just like the one for chef Flavio Costa at Tenuta Carretta, in Langhe. In France, examples abound: the Dillon family owns both Château Haut-Brion and the two-starred "Le Calrency" (pictured right, chef Christophe Pelé), while Angélus' Hubert de Bouard has received its star for "Logis de la Cadène".



Wine & Food

The "Nobile" of the families of Montepulciano

Avignonesi, Antinori (La Braccasca), Boscarelli, Dei, Poliziano and Salcheto are, according to WineNews rumours, the members of a new alliance based on VINO Nobile di Montepulciano and on the concept of family. These leading producers in the area are focusing on a new drive to promote brand and territory, particularly in foreign markets. The project, though, will develop through relationships with the Consortium of VINO Nobile. The Tuscan territory is growing, but for some it could do more, and these six "noble families" aim to do just that.

For the record

ICE, UIV and Federvini aim for the States

The U.S. are the most important foreign market for Italian wine, so the Minister for Economic Development has set aside 20 million Euros for the "Vino USA 2017-2019"

project, under the ICE commerce office, which this week has discussed details together with Unione Italiana Vini (led by Antonio Rallo) and Federvini.

