

News



Buffon and his wine

Wine and soccer are increasingly going hand in hand: nowadays, one can find many winemaking football stars, like Iniesta, Barzagli and Pirlo, and others, like Messi, have wines dedicated to them. The latest to come to the fold is the goalkeeper of the Italian national team that won the World Cup in 2006 and of Juventus FC, Gigi Buffon. "I'm happy", he tweeted, "to showcase my new project": a project that sees his name on three wines from IGP Salento, produced and distributed by Fabio Cordella Cantine. And, one can find labels dedicated to a lot of his colleagues, like Inter's Wesley Sneijder and Ivan Zamorano, the Chilean striker who played for Real Madrid and Inter.



Sustainable Renaissance

A huge "biological garden", with 32.297 hectares of certified vineyards: a denomination, DOC Sicilia, that is growing, a quality production and an eye towards exports, and lots of projects to safeguard its biodiversity, like "Viva" of the Ministry for the Environment. Not to mention the phenomenon of Etna, with many still investing in it. This is the "wine continent" of Sicily, which is showcasing its wines during "Sicilia en Primeur", with Assovini, and a non-stop Renaissance following one clear path: sustainability. It has an ancient tradition, the biggest and most biodiverse vineyard of Europe, both old and new wineries, of all dimensions, and it is looking at the future with old and new generations together, keeping its indigenous varieties and winning the challenge of international ones. (<https://goo.gl/Mq8w0J>)

Report

Ornellaia's restaurant

Promoting wine with high-level catering, using the winemaker's own brand, is becoming a trend: after the successful case histories of Antinori and Frescobaldi, among others, another great name of Tuscany has decided to do the same. And it's Ornellaia, one of the global symbols of Italian wine: in 2018, it will open the first Ornellaia restaurant in Zurich's Bahnhofstrasse, one of the world's most luxury oriented street areas, together with Bindella, which sells Ornellaia in Switzerland since its first vintage.



First Page

A look back at the history of Brunello

"In 1977, when I came here, Montalcino was a poor town, an underdeveloped territory, with many parcels of land for sale, there were no investments and there was no market for Brunello, which was already known and already had an enormous potential. I had 100 million Dollars in my pocket, and people called me mad when they heard I thought I could make 100.000 bottles. Franco Biondi Santi told me that he made 13.000 and sold 6.000. But I threw myself at it, and in 1995, when the Brunello phenomenon exploded, Banfi was already making millions of bottles". This is how enologist and manager Ezio Rivella - the author, together with the Mariani-May family, of the "dream" of Castello Banfi that led to worldwide fame for Brunello and birthed the spark that led to its success - chose to recall his history during the ceremony for the 50th birthday of the Consortium of Brunello that took place in Montalcino yesterday, also remembering the Biondi Santi family, which invented Brunello in the 19th century. The meeting, and the clash, of ideas that characterized this territory were evident in the following debate, with the Consortium representing a compromise. "We didn't have your "industrial" vision and your structures", Francesca Colombini Cinelli of Fattoria dei Barbi remarked during the debate, moderated by Luciano Ferraro: "our idea was to keep Montalcino the way it was, since that is at the base of that intellectual and scientific culture that joined, since the 19th century, all of our bourgeois families in a "workshop" of experiments for new winemaking techniques". But in the '60s, in Montalcino, "the end of sharecropping had changed everything. We call ourselves farms, but we're businesses now. Still, we've had, and still have, something in common, and that is Brunello, as the very top end of our production. The future? Keeping quality high on the territory and on markets, respecting our land, and we need to share the knowledge of it with our origins clear in mind". And, "one must never think that it can't get any better", Rivella concluded: "we must keep on investing, feeding that virtuous cycle that is behind the success of Brunello".

Focus

WineNews' take on Brexit for Vinexpo

The United Kingdom is going to be one of the first-tier global wine markets under the spotlight during Bordeaux's Vinexpo fair (June 18th-21st), since it's fundamental for the worldwide wine & spirits trade, especially if one considers the possible outcomes of Brexit. The matter of what might happen in the near future will be discussed on June 20th, through five main topics: the updating of trade agreements, the impact on the British market in terms of rights, prices and distribution, the protection of denominations, the opportunities of "Duty Free" sales and the theme of leadership in the United Kingdom. Vinexpo asked WineNews' Managing Director, Alessandro Regoli, for an opinion on the matter: "It's hard to understand what'll happen, it's a change of perspective: any change in wine imports in the United Kingdom can have a shocking effect on the global wine market. Some see the introduction of new excise duties as unlikely. In all probability, though, the winemaking members of the Commonwealth, like Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, will enjoy some kind of special treatment compared to countries like France, Italy and Spain".



Wine & Food

Italy performs splendidly in HK's wine auction scene

"The Grand Crus Auction" by Italian auction house Gelardini & Romani, which took place in Hong Kong, confirms the fact that the fine wine world is healthy, with 111% of the starting value (over 400.000 Euros). France got the biggest results, but Italian wines brought home the biggest raises. 6 bottles of Masseto 2001 went for 5.285 Euros, 6 bottiglie of Monfortino 1988 for 4.000, 6 of Brunello Biondi Santi Riserva 2010 for 3.714 and, quite surprisingly, the biggest raise took place for a vertical of Turriga, 19 bottles from 1999-2006, which went for 371% more than the starting price, 2.430 Euros.

For the record

U.S. wine market grows, Italy still leads

Sales in U.S. outlets, liquor & convenience stores have grown 3.1% y-o-y in the 52 weeks to March 25th: 162.2 million 9-liter cases (+0.9%), at an average of 7.07 Dollars per bottle. Italy is still the leading importer, and its most important market is worth 1.2 billions (+3.5%) and 11.1 million cases (9.23 Dollars per bottle, on average).

