

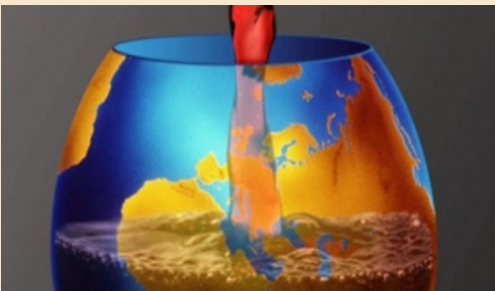


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News



Value outgrows volume in 2017

In the first 7 months of 2017, according to the latest report from State agency ISMEA on ISTAT data, Italian wine exports grew 7% in volume (to 12.2 million hectoliters) and 8% in value (to 3.3 billion Euros), but Italy is losing its edge compared to some of its competitors, particularly in the United States, where Italy grew 2.6% in volume and 6.2% in value while France shot up 21% and 23%, respectively. Still, it might be possible to reach a new record in value by the end of the year, to 6 billion Euros, and finally, Italy's performance in non-EU countries (up 8.5% in volume and 9% in value) outshone the one inside the Union's member States (up 5.5% and 6%).



Piedmont vs Burgundy

Burgundy's and Bordeaux's fine wines have always enjoyed the highest quotations, but according to wine-lister.com's latest analysis of its indexes of the most performing wines, price-wise, of Burgundy, Bordeaux, Piedmont and Tuscany, Italy has beaten France. In the last 24 months, the WL Piedmont Index (with Gaja's Spers and Barbaresco, Giacomo Conterno's Monfortino and Cascina Francia and Bartolo Mascarello's Barolo), has gone up 58%, while Burgundy's, with only DRC wines, has gone up 50%. Additionally, Tuscany's index (with Supertuscan heavyweights Masseto, Ornellaia, Sassicaia, Tignanello and Solaia) has grown 33%, five points more than Bordeaux's index (which is composed by Haut-Brion, Lafite, Latour, Margaux and Mouton-Rothschild).

Report

A historic harvest in Pompeii

A historic harvest took place once more in the vineyards of the ancient Roman city of Pompeii, where, in collaboration with renowned Campanian winemaker Mastroberardino, the "Villa dei Misteri" wine is made from Piedirosso and Sciascinoso grapes, and with the same techniques of ancient Romans. A little less than one hectare split in 15 different parcels inside the walls of ancient Pompeii, for an harvest that is captivating the attention of the many visitors of this unique piece of ancient Italian history.



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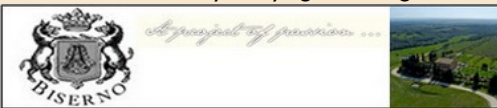
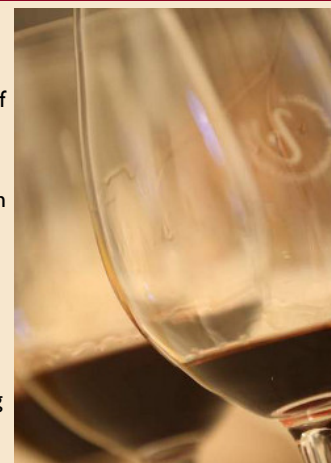
2017 harvest down 28%, says Assoenologi data

April's frosts and the summer's heatwaves have reaped a heavy toll on the Italian harvest, from Valle d'Aosta to Sicily: 15 million hectoliters of wine are missing year-over-year, down all the way to 38.9 million, according to the last estimate of Italian oenologist association Assoenologi. The numbers speak for themselves: minus 45% in Tuscany (to 1.6 million hectoliters), Lazio-Umbria (1.2 million) and Sardinia (440.000 hectoliters), Lombardy is down 35% (to 6.7 million), Marche (670.000 hectoliters), Abruzzi (2.7 million), Apulia (6.7 million) and Sicily (4.2 million) lost 30%, Piedmont (1.9 million) and Emilia Romagna (5.8 million) lost 25%, Veneto (8.1 million), Friuli (1.4 million) and Campania (one million hectoliters) lost 20% and Trentino's output went down 15% (one million), while other smaller Regions (such as Valle d'Aosta, Liguria, Molise, Basilicata and Calabria) lost about 30%, to 740.000 hectoliters. The 2017 harvest then, will go down in history as the second most scarce since the end of World War II, after the one of 1947 (36.4 million hectoliters). Quantity-wise, then, the disaster is undeniable, but looking at quality - even though the situation is fragmented - things, as previously reported by WineNews, have gone a lot better than some had anticipated, according to the opinions of some of the country's top winemakers. "The grapes", stated Assoenologi, led by Riccardo Cotarella, in an official note, "arrived in the wineries' cellars in perfect health, but with different degrees of ripeness, even when coming from the same vineyard, and often with quite dehydrated bunches. Quality, therefore, will be highly mixed, but quite good on the whole, but with various variations that have showcased great levels of quality, in some cases, and, where the climate was particularly harsh, not so good in others. This year, more than others, the scientific approach of oenologists, particularly when it comes to decisions in the vineyards, played a key role". 2017, then, was an year when the weather reached unprecedented extremes in living memory, "with climatic events that went on with an exceptional and highly unusual reach".

Focus

A Court ruling divides Amarone

The years-old confrontation between the Consortium of Valpolicella wines and the Famiglie dell'Amarone d'Arte association (composed of 13 top-level brands of the iconic Venetian wine, namely Allegrini, Begali, Brigaldara, Guerrieri Rizzardi, Masi Agricola, Musella, Speri, Tedeschi, Tenuta Sant'Antonio, Tommasi, Torre d'Orti, Venturini and Zenato, www.amaronefamilies.it) reached another flashpoint with a ruling of the Civil Court of Venice: according to the judges, the name of the association is irregular and must be changed, and the possibility of an accusation of unfair competition might not be off the table regarding the use of the expression "Amarone d'Arte", which might automatically denote other Amarone wines as being of an inferior quality. Furthermore, the effects of the ruling might reach well beyond the borders of Veneto, given how many producers all over Italy have created similar associations and christened them using terms such as "academy", "alliances", "masters" and so on next to the names of protected denominations. At the time of writing, the association is not commenting on the ruling, and, just like the Consortium, is closely studying the ruling's motivations and details.



Wine & Food

Zonin enters hospitality with its "Wine House & Hotel 1821"

Consolidating the prestige of a wine brand also means diversifying investments in other sectors, such as hospitality: Zonin 1821, one of the most important businesses of Italian wine (over 2.000 hectares of vineyards and 193 million Euros in turnover) has opened its first "Wine House & Hotel 1821" in Edinburgh, with restaurateur Sep Martini. Chambers will be themed on the group's estates (such as Castello d'Albola and Massera Aitemura) and a wine library, with the group's most important labels, is included. The next openings will take place in Brazil's Sao Paulo and then London and Vienna.

For the record

Organic vineyards on the rise in Italy

According to an analysis of State data by UIV's "Corriere Vinicolo", certified organic vineyards have reached 103.545 hectares in 2016, up 23.8% over 2015, and reaching 15.7% of the total. 65.000 are already active, and 38.000 are being converted, with Sicily having the lion's share (39.000, 38%), followed by Apulia (15%) and Tuscany (13%).

