



Italian Weekly WineNews.it



Issue 348 - January 8th-13th, 2018 - Expressly for wine lovers, professionals and opinion leaders the world over
Registration number 709, Courthouse of Siena, March 31st, 2001 - Editor-in-chief: Alessandro Regoli

News



WE chooses Val d'Orcia

UNESCO recognized Val d'Orcia, birthplace of Brunello di Montalcino and close to the Chianti Classico and Nobile di Montepulciano, has been chosen as one of the "Top 10 Wine Getaways of 2018" by Wine Enthusiast magazine. According to its Italian editor, Kerin O'Keefe, "it looks like it comes out of a Renaissance painting", and, with its farms, cypresses, olive trees, vineyards and hills, "is the quintessence of the Italian landscape". Among others, the magazine mentions Michelin-starred restaurant Osteria Perilla in Rocca d'Orcia and the Adler Thermae Wellness & Spa Resort, and wineries such as Biondi Santi, Castello Banfi and Ciacci Piccolomini d'Aragona.



More M&A in Montalcino

According to rumours WineNews has heard, one of the most historic wineries in the Brunello di Montalcino territory, Ciacci Piccolomini d'Aragona, whose roots go all the way back to the 17th century and owned by the Bianchini family since 1985, has acquired 2.5 hectares of vineyards of Brunello di Montalcino previously owned by Tenuta La Togata for an undisclosed sum (one hectare of the kind is usually worth 450.000-550.000 Euros, provided one can find a seller). The winery, constantly at the top of the quality pyramid, global critics agree, now owns 55.5 hectares of vineyards (20 Brunello, 8 Rosso and the rest Sant'Antimo DOC and IGT) and produces around 300.000 bottles per year (90.000 Brunello), and exports absorb around 80% of them.

Report

Mastrojanni & Montalcino

Brunello di Montalcino winemaker Mastrojanni, owned by the Illy group, has recently expanded in the territory of the renowned Italian red by acquiring an estate a stone's throw from the Abbey of St. Antimo with 6 hectares of vineyards (3 for Rosso di Montalcino and 3 for Sant'Antimo), adjacent to those it already owned. Andrea Machetti, CEO of Mastrojanni, did not deny the acquisition to WineNews, thus bringing the total hectares owned to 40 (17 for Brunello di Montalcino).



A CAMPAIGN FINANCING IN ACCORDING TO REG. EC N. 1306/2013

First Page

Double-digit hike for Italian wines' prices

The effects of the extremely scarce 2017 harvest, with an output of around 39 million hectolitres (down 28% y-o-y, according to Assoenologi), are finally showing up on the market. The much feared raise in starting prices and quotes for wines is becoming a reality, worrying growers, bottlers and merchants alike, not only since this means that their margins are quickly growing thinner and thinner, but also that there are most probably going to be increases in the final price tag. And, the modern consumer will hardly react favourably to this, particularly on such a competitive market. According to a WineNews analysis of State agency ISMEA data last updated in November 2017, price hikes are a constant in all denominations, and almost all in the double digits. Common wines see whites at 5.6 Euros per hectograde (up 84.4%), and reds at 5.33 (up 58.7%), but famous denominations are following suit. Brunello di Montalcino is at the top, around 1.050 Euros per 100 kilos (up 12.9% y-o-y), followed by Barolo, unchanged at 820 Euros, while ISMEA data does not indicate Amarone della Valpolicella, but according to the Consortium, the current market price hovers around 800 to 1.000 Euros per 100 kilos for the last vintage available on the market, 2014 (while Valpolicella is at 250 Euros, says ISMEA). The hike has also been felt for Barbaresco (580 Euros, up 20.8%), Nebbiolo d'Alba (310 Euros, up 8.8%) and Barbera d'Alba (210 Euros, up 23.5%). In Tuscany, Chianti has shot up 26.8%, to 130 Euros per 100 kilograms, and Chianti Classico has gone up 17% (to 257.5 euros), but prices are growing in Emilia Romagna, Friuli Venezia Giulia and in Sicily, on Etna, as well. Ditto for whites, and understandably, Prosecco DOCG is on top, reaching 300 Euros per 100 kilos (up 20% over 2016), and Prosecco Doc at 225 (up 18.4%), but price hikes are evident also for Piedmont Moscato, Roero Arneis, Orvieto, Marsala, Frascati, Pinot Nero of Trentino for sparklings, Chardonnay of Oltrepò Pavese and Soave, with quotes around 95 Euros per 100 kilos for DOCs and 105 for Classico (15 to 20% raise over 2016, according to the Consortium of Soave).

Focus

Italy's best for The Wine Advocate

After the many awards given to Italian wine by a host of international rankings during the past year, here comes the "best of the best" in 2017, according to The Wine Advocate's Monica Lerner, the Italian correspondent of one of the most influential global magazines on wine, founded by Robert Parker in 1978. Nine Italian labels are mentioned, divided between northern, central and southern Italy, namely, for north Italy, Lerner chose Barolo Riserva Monfortino 2010 Giacomo Conterno (the 2004 vintage received 100/100 points last Spring), Barolo Riserva Villero 2009 Vietti (the 2007 vintage got 100/100 points as well) and Pinot Bianco Rarity 1991 Cantina di Terlano. For central Italy, Lerner points out Brunello di Montalcino Madonna delle Grazie 2012 Marroneto (100/100 for the 2010 vintage), Cabernet Franc Matarocchio 2013 Tenuta Guado al Tasso of the Antinori Family and Chianti Classico Gran Selezione Colonia 2013 Felsina. Finally, the Southern regions, with Etna dominating with Vigna Barbagalli 2014 Pietradolce and San Lorenzo 2014 Girolamo Russo, and Campania closing the lot with Merlot Patrimo 2015 Feudi di San Gregorio.



ARNALDO CAPRAI

Viticoltore in Montefalco

CAMPAIGN FINANCED ACCORDING TO EC REGULATION N.1306/13

Wine & Food

92% of Italian PDOs, PGIs come from small municipalities

According to the joint report on the matter by farmers association Coldiretti and the Symbola Foundation, 92% of all PDO/PGI food products (270 out of 203) come from one of the 5.567 Italian municipalities with less than 5.000 residents, 69.7% of all Italian municipalities. A treasure that will be further safeguarded by Italian law 158/17, strongly proposed by Symbola President and MP Ermete Realacci, who pointed out that "The bond between history, nature, culture and territory is the distinguishing feature of our country, and we must capitalize and invest in this strength".

For the record

The winners of the 2018 Nonino Prize

P(our), the non-profit organization, Albanian poet Ismail Kadare and Italian philosopher Giorgio Agamben are the winners of the 2018 Nonino prize, created by the famous Friuli

distillery led by Gianola Nonino together with her three daughters, in the year of the 120th birthday of the firm. Nobel laureate V.S. Naipaul headed the jury.

