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News



2015, Ornellaia's "Charisma"

"The wines of great vintages, just like people with great charisma, can establish themselves just because of their balance": this is how Axel Heinz, oenologist and Director of Tenuta dell'Ornellaia, has presented the 10th edition of their "Vendemmia d'Artista" charity project, which has donated more than 2 million Euros to museums and foundations the world over. The project has called artists such as Ontani, Zhang Huan and Pistoletto to decorate the labels of these limited editions, and for 2015, South African artist William Kendridge was selected, for a vintage that Kevin Gould, head of Sotheby's Wine Department for Europe, said, "is destined to become one of the greatest ones ever".



4 stars for Brunello in 2017

A very good year. This, as WineNews rumours have it, is going to be the official verdict on the 2017 vintage of Brunello di Montalcino, according to the Consortium. Even though the weather has been far from great, with one of the hottest summers ever, the Sangiovese grapes have held firm and done very well, and the vintage will be remembered for one additional reason, namely the fact that the celebrative "tile" of the vintage will be authored by none other than Sting, former frontman of New Wave band The Police, long-time rock star and winemaker in Tuscany, together with his wife Trudie Styler in their Il Palagio estate, and he'll be in Montalcino on Feb. 17th for the conclusion of the week of the region's wine previews that Sting himself will open in Florence on the 10th.

Report

Allegrini buys in Lugana

As previously anticipated by WineNews, renowned Amarone winemaker Allegrini, one of Italy's top producers - 100 hectares in Valpolicella, 16 in Montalcino and 50 in Bolgheri - has bought 40 hectares of land to become vineyards in Lugana, one of Italy's premier white wines denomination. "They'll be added to the 10 hectares we bought there 3 years ago, and will be planted by 2018", Franco Allegrini told WineNews, "and as we plan to reach the high quality segment, we'll start slowly".

First Page

Valpolicella turns 50, looks to a bright future

This year's "Anteprima Amarone" preview has seen the territory of one of Italy's most famous reds celebrate its 50th year as a PDO, and confirmed its extraordinary success abroad. The figures speak for themselves - 68% of production goes abroad (Germany above all, but the States, Switzerland, the UK, China and Japan also feature), and value has gone up 10% y-o-y. The domestic market shot up 20% in the same timeframe, thanks to restaurants and wine shops, which absorb 60% of the domestic market of Amarone, for a turnover of over 355 million Euros, according to WineMonitor - Nomisma data. It's one of Italy's largest denominations, with 7.994 hectares, and each of those enjoys a profitability of 24.000 Euros. Additionally, small-sized wineries are an integral part of the denomination, since 30% of them make no more than 20.000 bottles/year, and more than half of the 1.636 wineries of the Consortium have 2 hectares of vineyards or less. The latest vintage to enter the market, 2014, will not go down as a great one, though: 2014 will be remembered as "the year of the rains", because not only a grand total of 1.500 millimetres of rain fell on Valpolicella's lands, but more than 860 mm were concentrated in the vegetative period, and the end result is that production has gone down 30% compared to the average in the last five years. The uniqueness of Amarone della Valpolicella, as it is well-known, resides in its production, which hinges on the "appassimento", or drying, of ripe grapes on straw mats, and Luca Zaia, President of the Regional Authority of Veneto, has stated that he intends to go forward with the candidacy of the process itself as UNESCO world heritage. Finally, the 50th birthday of the denomination, which the Consortium has celebrated with a grand vertical tasting of vintages going all the way back to the 1950s, has also been celebrated by the 13 wineries of the "Famiglie Storiche" association (Allegrini, Begali, Brigaldara, Guerrieri Rizzardi, Masi, Musella, Speri, Tedeschi, Tenuta Sant'Antonio, Tommasi, Torre D'Orti, Venturini and Zenato) with a vertical tasting of vintages 1988 to 2010 in Quebec, and one of vintages 2009, 2010 and 2011 in New York.

Focus

Stocks, inspections and wine safety

Wine is one of the most inspected sectors of Italian agriculture. 17.527 out of the 53.733 checks carried out by the ICQRF inspectorate in 2017 were on wine, due to its profitability and allure abroad. Prosecco, because of its fame, saw ICQRF intervene on its behalf 749 times between 2014 and 2017, while "Wine Kits" generated 281 interventions. Domestically speaking, in 2017 111 criminal offences, 1.964 misdemeanors and 169 seizures were carried out, for 9,304.9 tonnes of wine and musts and a market value of 8.6 million Euros. 2017, furthermore, was also the first year of activity for the "electronic register" of wineries, which 15.000 operators participating in. At year's end, total stocks reached 46.2 million hectoliters (49% PDOs, 28% PGIs, 22% table wines and 1% varietals). Veneto was in the lead (11 million hectoliters), followed by Emilia Romagna (6) and Tuscany (5). Prosecco stocks reached 2.9 million hectoliters (8.2%), and for Chianti Classico stocks were at 734.715 hectoliters, followed by Conegliano Valdobbiadene (643.409), Franciacorta (528.232), Barolo (460.912), Amarone della Valpolicella (408.868) and Brunello di Montalcino (343.754 hectoliters).



SMS



ARNALDO CAPRAI

Viticoltore in Montefalco

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Wine & Food

Luxury wine & food sector to keep on growing rapidly

The luxury goods market seems to know no downturn, and will keep on growing globally, according to the 16th edition of Bain & Company's "Luxury Study", created for the Altgamma Foundation. Overall, the global luxury goods market is worth 1.200 billion Euros and has grown 5% y-o-y in 2017. Automobiles take the lion's share (489 billion), but the wine & spirits sector has grown 6%, to 70 billion Euros, and the luxury foods sector has grown the same to 49 billion. And from here to 2020, more growth is expected, around 4-5% per year.

For the record

Mariani-May becomes Banfi's sole CEO

Cristina Mariani-May, one of Italian wine's most important women and descendant of the founders of Banfi, has become President and sole CEO of Banfi Vintners, parent company of

the entire group and the USA's premier wine importer. The news "will not influence Castello Banfi's management", CEO Enrico Viglierchio told WineNews.



A CAMPAIGN FINANCING IN ACCORDING TO REG. EC N. 1308/2013