

Press Release  
For Immediate Release

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## **OperaWine 2021 10<sup>th</sup> edition: back in-person for the first time with 186 Italian wine producers**

Veronafiere together with Vinitaly and with the contribution of world-leading magazine “Wine Spectator” have presented the OperaWine event, *Finest Italian Wines: 100 Great Producers selected by Wine Spectator*, which took place in Verona on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021. This year marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and for the first time since the pandemic we were able to be back in-person.



This **gala event** welcomed journalists, sommeliers, and international wine professionals to celebrate and highlight the **diversity** and **quality** of Italian wines. Wine Spectator's selection confirmed itself as a **true ambassador** of Made in Italy products, promoting the best Italian wines to international buyers and experts in the wine industry.

The **10th edition** saw the special invitation of selected producers from the past ten editions, resulting in a total of 186 Italian wine producers representing the best wines in the Italian peninsula. We were especially proud this year as we were able to have OperaWine back **in-person**. Physically seeing all our guests, going through tastings together and talk about all things wine was a beautiful experience. From the feedback collected during the event, the producers had this same shared feeling, summarized by the words of Federica Mascheroni Stianti from Castello di Volpaia: *"Being at OperaWine 2021, for this extraordinary and special edition, symbolizes a restart as it is the first event we have attended for a long time. It seems we can now return to an almost normal life, even if we are wearing a mask."* "Being here after a year" said Andrea Orsini Scatagliani, Head of Communication at Frescobaldi, *"means seeing happy faces again. This wonderful industry needs human relationships. Wine is even better if you can share it."*

One of our top priorities during the event was the **safety and health** of our guests, which we took seriously. Thanks to our **new location**, the **Gallerie Mercatali** of Verona, we were able to avoid overcrowding and ensure the respect of **social distancing** throughout the whole event.

OperaWine's **experiential journey** was also a success. A **specific path** guided our guests through regions, new oenological frontiers, and grape varieties, representing the finest wines Italy has to offer. *"Once inside the venue",* explains managing Director of OperaWine Stevie Kim, *"our guests had to follow a specific path through an experiential journey exploring regions, grape varieties, and the finest wines represented by 186 producers. This guided course both allowed guests to taste safely, but also provided a narrative guide through the selected wines, thus a regulation becomes an innovation!"*

The event started with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 2:15 pm, but our producers and sponsors were on site earlier to be interviewed, set their booths, and enjoy a light lunch offered by **pizza Chef Renato Bosco** from "Saporè" in Verona, who created different types of pizzas perfectly paired with the wines.

Our sponsors and partners played an important role during the event. From our main sponsor, **Unicredit** to **Enartis**, from **Grana Padano** to **Grissin Bon**, from **San Felice Acqua di Toscana** to **Frantoio Bonamini**, and from **Terra e Cuore** to **Forno Bonomi** who provided support, and savory and sweet treats during the event. A complimentary glass from **Rastal**, with a special engraving of the OperaWine logo, was also offered.

The OperaWine staff remains fully at disposal for any additional enquiry and can be contacted at: [operawine@justdothework.it](mailto:operawine@justdothework.it)



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**About Vinitaly:**

The 54<sup>th</sup> edition of Vinitaly has been postponed to April, 10-13 2022. Every year, Vinitaly counts more than 4,000 exhibitors on a 100,000+ square meter area and 130,000 visitors from over 140 different countries with more than 30,000 top international buyers. The premier event to Vinitaly, OperaWine “Finest Italian Wines: 100 Great Producers selected by Wine Spectator” which in 2021 will be held on June 19, will unite international wine professionals in the heart of Verona, offering them the unique opportunity to discover and taste the wines of the 100 Best Italian Producers, as selected by Wine Spectator. Since 1998 Vinitaly travels to several countries such as Russia, China, USA and Hong Kong thanks to its strategic arm abroad, Vinitaly International. In February 2014 Vinitaly International launched an educational project, the Vinitaly International Academy (VIA) with the aim of divulging and broadcasting the excellence and diversity of Italian wine around the globe. Today VIA counts 215 Italian Wine Ambassadors and 15 Italian Wine Experts.

**About Wine Spectator:**

Wine Spectator is the world’s leading authority on wine. Anchored by Wine Spectator magazine, a print publication that reaches around 3 million readers worldwide, the brand also encompasses the Web’s most comprehensive wine site ([WineSpectator.com](http://WineSpectator.com)), mobile platforms and a series of signature events. Wine Spectator examines the world of wine from the vineyard to the table, exploring wine’s role in contemporary culture and delivering expert reviews of more than 15,000 wines each year. Parent company M. Shanken Communications, Inc., also publishes Cigar Aficionado, Whisky Advocate, Market Watch, Shanken News Daily and Shanken’s Impact Newsletter.