



On Thursday 17th October 2013, the presentation of the new *Guide de l'Espresso* returns to the Stazione Leopolda in Florence: Pitti Immagine will be hosting the awards for the best Italian Wines and Restaurants for 2014

On **Thursday 17th October 2013**, the **Stazione Leopolda** in **Florence** will once again be hosting a special event dedicated to the latest edition of the ***Guide de l'Espresso***. From 10.30 a.m. the event will showcase the best Italian wines and celebrate the best Italian restaurants by presenting the **new 2014 edition** of these guides that, over the years, have become a reference point for contemporary winemaking in Italy and new Italian cuisine: **"I Vini d'Italia 2014"** (Guide to Italian Wines 2014) and **"Ristoranti d'Italia 2014"** (Italian Restaurants 2014).

One of the new features for this edition is the special **Club Excellence Wine Tasting**. The Club Excellence brings together all the most important national distributors and importers of quality wines and spirits.

The presentation event is organized by **Pitti Immagine** and the **Centro di Firenze per la Moda Italiana**, under the patronage of the **Comune di Firenze** and with the collaboration of **Acqua Sparea**, **Caraiba Luxury** and **Iper La grande i**. In the exceptional setting of the Stazione Leopolda, the day's events will be presented by the President of Pitti Immagine, **Gaetano Marzotto**, the editor of the *Espresso* guides, **Enzo Vizzari**, the editor of the *Espresso* magazine, **Bruno Manfellotto**, and the two curators of the Wine Guide **Ernesto Gentili** and **Fabio Rizzari**. The layouts that will greet the guests are designed by architect Alessandro Moradei.

"The presentation of the new *Espresso* Guides has become an unmissable event for anyone working in the food and wine sector in Italy", says Raffaello Napoleone, CEO of Pitti Immagine. "We have supported and organized 11 editions of this event and consider it to be a very important promotional tool for top Italian wines and restaurants, two sectors that appear to be crisis-proof and are becoming increasingly strategic to the valorization and marketing of the territory. Good eating and drinking are essential lifestyle elements: we at Pitti have studied this sector for a number of years through our fair *Taste* and have also investigated the increasingly popular forms of contamination between food, wine and fashion – all outstanding qualities of Italian style".

Here are some of the events that will be held during the day:

_ the opening, at **11.00 a.m.**, will include the **presentation of the "I Vini d'Italia 2014" guide, followed by the awards for excellence**: 25,000 wines tasted, 2,100 producers singled out, of which 474 "starred" for their quality and continuity over the years, plus 272 Wines of Excellence;

_ next, at 12.00 p.m., **the "Ristoranti d'Italia 2014" guide will be presented**, the latest edition of the veteran Italian restaurant guide: research for the guide is carried out in almost 2,700 venues all over the country which are reviewed with comments and graded (this work was carried out by 100 "gastronomists", mainly journalists, who judged the food first and foremost, but also looked at the ambient, the cellar and the service). This will be followed by the presentation of awards to the venues receiving a special mention, which will include the

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magnificent 26 restaurants that have been given “three chef’s hats”. At the end of the ceremony, guests will be invited to taste the wines of excellence;

_ at **1.00 p.m.**, for the first time at this edition, there will also be the **Club Excellence Wine Tasting** featuring a selection of the best labels proposed by the Club which, since 2012, has brought together the most prestigious names in the importation and distribution of wines of excellence, in order to promote the concept of organizing the distribution and sale of superior wines and spirits;

_ in the afternoon, from **2.30 p.m.** the eighth edition of the **auction of fine and collector’s wines** organized by the **PANDOLFINI auction house** will be held. This auction has now become an unmissable event for members of the trade and for fine wine enthusiasts: the catalogue for this edition features **around 200 lots**, with a **wide selection of wines from Italy** – including many unobtainable Supertuscans – and **various lots of the most prestigious French Châteaux and Domaines**, as well as lots from the **Bourgogne** and **Bordeaux** areas.
www.pandolfini.it

*We would like to thank **Tuscan Excelsia** for their collaboration.*

Florence, 16th October 2013

I Vini d’Italia 2014
Wines of Italy 2014
I Ristoranti d’Italia 2014
Restaurants of Italy 2014
17th October 2013
accreditation begins at 10.30 a.m.
Stazione Leopolda
Viale F.lli Rosselli 5
Entrance by invitation only