



**Italian Wine & Food Institute**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



Presentation of the "Wine Leader Awards"

**GREAT SUCCESS  
FOR THE 32<sup>nd</sup> EDITION OF GALA ITALIA**

New York, March 6 - - **Joshua Greene** (Editor of Wine & Spirits Magazine), **Piero Selvaggio** (owner of the restaurant "Valentino" in Los Angeles), **Marc D. Taub** (President and CEO of Palm Bay International), and **Kevin Zraly** (Author and Wine Educator at the Windows on the World Wine School) have been awarded by the Italian Wine & Food Institute with the "Wine Leader Awards."

The awards ceremony took place during the 32<sup>nd</sup> edition of the **GALA ITALIA**, which was held on Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, in the Grand Ballroom of the **Essex House** under the patronage of the Italian Ambassador to Washington.

Represented by their Food & Wine Editors were many of the most important and prestigious wine and food publications in the United States: from Wine Spectator, Wine Enthusiast, Bon Appetit, Wine & Spirits Magazine, and Forbes to Newsweek, Hearst Magazines, Food & Wine Country, Dessert Magazine, Beverage Media, New York Times and Town & Country, as well as various news agencies, television stations, correspondents from the main Italian newspapers, and numerous VIP, including Consul Isabella Periotto of the Consulate General of Italy.

The **GALA ITALIA**, as it has done continuously for over thirty years, renewed its meeting with the most qualified American wine press in a significant, meticulously organized event that presented a top selection of great, special-vintage wines, thus contributing to the success, prestige and image of quality Italian wine and the *Made in Italy* as a whole.

The GALA ITALIA began with the "**Wine & Food Tasting**," during which high-quality Italian wine and food were tasted, followed by the "**Gala Dinner**" and the presentation of the "**Wine Leaders Awards**."

A variety of high-quality wines was specially selected for the particularly important guests who filled to capacity the Petite Salon for the Wine Tasting and the Grand Ballroom for the Gala Dinner.

Among the journalists in attendance: Jane Cortellini and Adam Strum of **Wine Enthusiast Magazine**; Jordan McDowell, Callie Eidler, Daria Saenko and Bruce Sanderson of **Wine Spectator**; Gary Walther of **Wall Street Journal**; Steve Cuzzo of **New York Post**; Ellen Roach of **National News Service**; Sam Dangremond of **Town & Country**; Noelle Xie of **Star Daily**; Jeanette Hektoen of **JH Media**; Ron Kapon of **Cheese Connoisseur Magazine**; Tony Lawrence of **The Global Wine Chef**; Jacquelyn Tietz of **Kevin Zraly's Wine School**; Woody Wolston of **The Cake Bible**; Joel Levin of the **NJ Newspaper Group**; Maxine Albert of **Bella NY Magazine**; Joseph Broski of **American Wine Society**; Jesse Nash and Irene Patar of **Syndicated Group**; Jane Nausbaum of **Newspaper First**; Suzanne Richter of **Stonebridge Media**; David Allen of **Today's New**; Sheri de Borchgrave of **C&G Media**; Gerald Dillon of **The L Magazine**; Thomas Farley of **New York Insider**; Gloria Cressler and Bill Lee Lanndis of **Black Tie International Magazine**; Robert Stepanek of **IBR News**; Bruce Alexander of **Bruce's World**; Stefanos Kasselakis of **Phila Coatings**; Alex Shenberg of **ASB Media Group**; Tor Sporre' of **Food & Wine Country**; Philip Kampe of **The Wine Hub**; Harriet Lembeck of **Wine & Spirits Program**; William Lembeck of the **Society of Wine Educators**; Kris Shetty of **Asia News** and Marina Carminati of **NBC**. Also present were numerous Italian journalists.

The Wine Tasting featured the following wines: the AB Vinea Doni, Vernaccia di San Gimignano DOCG 2014; the Citra, Caroso Montepulciano d'Abruzzo DOC 2010; the Ferrari Brut NV and the Ferrari Rosé NV; the Campora, Rosso Toscana IGT 2009; the Cavit, Lunetta, Prosecco NV and the Cavit, Infine Pinot Grigio Trentino Superiore DOC 2015; the Mezzacorona, NOS Teroldego Rotaliano Riserva DOC 2007; the Puiatti, LUS Ribolla Gialla IGP 2014; the Paretaio, Rosso Toscana IGT 2012; the Planeta, Cerasuolo di Vittoria DOCG, 2014; the Rocca delle Macie, Chianti Classico Riserva di Fizzano DOCG 2012; the Rotari Rosé, Trento DOC 2013 and the Rotari Brut, Trento DOC 2013; the Sella & Mosca, La Cala Vermentino DOC 2015; the Stemmari, Grillo, Sicilia DOC 2015; the Travaglini, Gattinara DOCG 2011 and the Vigna a Solatio, Vernaccia di San Gimignano DOCG 2015.

At the Gala Dinner were served: the Ferrari "Perlé" Trento DOC 2009; the Vigna a Solatio, Vernaccia di San Gimignano DOCG 2014; the Castello di Querceto, "Il Picchio" Chianti Classico Riserva, Gran Selezione DOCG 2012; the Col d'Orcia, Brunello di Montalcino DOCG 2007; the Campora, Rosso Toscano IGT 2009; the Mezzacorona NOS Teroldego Riserva 2007; the Bertani, Amarone della Valpolicella Classico DOC 2007; and the Fontanafredda, "Moncucco" Moscato d'Asti DOCG 2010.

The dinner recalled a professional wine tasting, as guests were seated around large, round tables with triangular “glass mats” upon which were placed nine different glasses for the various dinner wines. Throughout the evening, the wines (whose descriptions were highlighted in the event program) and their specific qualities were further illustrated to the journalists by the wineries’ representatives.

The menu was specially prepared by Chefs Achilles Poliviou and Andrew Burriesci and by Pastry Chef Tommy Doh to pair with the exceptional dinner wines. The menu featured Butter Poached Lobster with butter head lettuce, treviso, watermelon radish and herbed olive oil; followed by Braised Lamb Ossobuco with white bean cassoulet, saute escarole, roasted cipolini onion and port wine reduction; and an assorted cheese plate of gorgonzola, parmigiano reggiano and asiago. Dinner concluded with a Mocha Chocolate Mousse Cake with gold leaf and hazelnut gelato.

Guests were also treated to Ferrero Rocher chocolates provided by Ferrero, and to ground coffee provided by Illy Caffé.

Among the past recipients of the "Wine Leaders Awards": Adam Strum, John Mariani, Florence Fabricant, Mary Ewing-Mulligan MW, Piero Antinori, Jacopo Biondi Santi, Pio Boffa (Pio Cesare), Matthew Lunelli (Ferrari) Chiara Lungarotti, Lucio Tasca, Sirio Maccioni, Gualtiero Marchesi, Giovanni Rana, Vittorio Assaf and Fabio Granato.

An elegant, colorful catalogue was specially prepared for the GALA ITALIA containing detailed information on all of the wines, the participating companies, and the honorees. Over 2,000 copies were distributed to guests in attendance, and were subsequently sent to the principal trade representatives across the United States.

The GALA ITALIA was organized by the Italian Wine & Food Institute with the support of the Ministry of Economic Development and ICE-Italian Trade Commission.

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**A wide selection of pictures are available on the website of the Institute (<https://iwfinews.com/gala-italia-2017-photo-gallery/>). High-resolution pictures are available upon request.**