



July 31, 2008

the weekend buzz

Saturday: Rare Collectors Tasting of Italy's Inspirational Wines at Italian Wine Merchants, 108 East 16th Street, between Union Square East and Irving Place.

On Saturday afternoon from 1-3 pm you'll have the chance to taste some of Italy's landmark bottlings. It's not just the first time IWM's pouring them—it's the first time they are being poured together at a wine tasting anywhere. Sergio Esposito's new memoir, "Passion on the Vine," was inspired, in large part, by the featured producers, and this tasting will illuminate the significant role each played in the development of his philosophy.

The selection is specifically designed with the collector in mind and includes wines in various stages of drinkability. Among the highlights are Mastroberardino's Villa dei Misteri, an experimental wine that may just be the South's rarest gem (a mere 140 cases are released annually); Quintarelli's Rosso del Bepi, a declassified Amarone that challenges the dried grape category as a whole; a 13-year-old Flaccianello from Fontodi; and Bartolo Mascarello's 2001 Barolo, a wine that shows us why "84 Points is Better than 100." This seminar (\$185 per person) will include a wine note booklet featuring IWM's proprietary writing, a signed copy of "Passion on the Vine" by Sergio Esposito (hardcover), a demonstration of IWM's Wine Collecting Services, which will be made available to all guests on a trial basis and a sampling of regional cheeses and house-cured meats. To register visit www.italianwinemerchant.com or call 212-473-2323.