



# basket, bottle + vine

a newsletter dedicated to the santorini vineyard: december 2010

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## UP CLOSE



### Vinsanto: Hitting the sweet spot

LONG-MALIGNED AS UNSERIOUS, sweet wines are reclaiming their rightful place as wines of elegance and style. This emerging movement comes at a time when consumers are increasingly exploring lesser-known regions and varieties, and becoming more sophisticated about food pairings.

Vinsanto's challenge? Educating the public about its true origins. Vinsanto, as we know, hails from Santorini, made from at least 75 percent Assyrtiko (the remaining varieties can be Aidani and Athiri). But many consumers associate it with the Italian Vino Santo — also an ancient wine, but a distant cousin of the naturally sweet original from Santorini.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

## IN THE VINEYARD



### Harvest: Bring it on

BLESSED WITH ENVIABLE WEATHER and a viticulture that's

### SEE IT

#### Who's talking?

Paul Einbund, The Slanted Door Restaurant Group, San Francisco  
[\(SEE VIDEO\)](#)

UK wine expert Tom Cannavan explains why variety is the spice of life.  
[\(SEE VIDEO\)](#)

### HOT PICKS

2003 Gavalas Vinsanto, 2004 SantoWines Vinsanto  
[\(VIEW ARTICLE\)](#)

2008 SantoWines Nykteri Reserve, Estate Argyros Oak Fermented Assyrtiko, 1999 Canava Roussos Vinsanto, 2008 Domainw Sigalas  
[\(VIEW ARTICLE\)](#)

2009 Domaine Sigalas  
[\(VIEW ARTICLE\)](#)

### HOT BUTTONS

"Not your Mama's Retsina"  
San Francisco wine writer Tim Teichgraeber has something to write home about to his native Minneapolis

Dueling bottles: Assyrtiko stands up to Riesling

East, drink & be Greek: Wines contribute to Greece's gastronomic reputation

### HOT STUFF

#### Long name makes the short list

Wine Spectator named

adapted to the unique volcanic environment of the island, the vineyard of Santorini doesn't experience a great deal of variation in harvest from year to year.

But that hasn't stopped producers from saying this year's harvest was considered one of the best of the last decade

"The harvests are usually classified as good or very good," says Yiota Ioakimoglou of Estate Argyros.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

## ON PREMISE



### Assyrtiko: A rising star from coast to coast

LONG A FAVORITE OF SAVVY SOMMELIERS, Assyrtiko is now popping up by the glass at many of the nation's top restaurants. In San Francisco, Paul Einbund, wine director at the Slanted Door Restaurant Group, says that he's been tasting Greek wine for several years and recently "the quality in Greece has really gone through the roof."

[READ MORE HERE](#)

Koutsoyiannopoulos Santorini 2009 (Volcan Winery) to its Top 100 List, giving the wine a 91 rating.

**Our Annual Roundup of the Year's Most Exciting Wines**  
**WINE SPECTATOR'S TOP 100 AT A GLANCE**

**86 91 93 Koutsoyiannopoulos Santorini 2009**

Elin McCoy writes about [Greece's Isle of White](#) in Bloomberg Markets magazine



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CAMPAIN FINANCIATA DE LA UNIUNEA EUROPEANA SI DE GREECE



HELLENIC REPUBLIC

#### MISSION

Wines from Santorini is a campaign to increase awareness of the unique PDO wines and vineyard of Santorini through cutting-edge education and promotion.