

# basket, bottle +vine

a newsletter dedicated to the santorini vineyard: february 2011

PRESS

**OUR WINES** 

WINERIES

BLOG

COMMUNITY

#### **UPCOMING**



# From island to island: Santorini returns to New York City

Seminar and tasting to be held March 23

WINES FROM SANTORINI will host a special tasting event featuring the 2010 harvest, projected to be one of the best of the last decade.

The vineyard of Santorini will be the focus on an invitation-only special seminar and tasting in New York City on March 23 click here to RSVP. Dr. Yiannis Paraskevopoulos of GAIA wines, one of Greece's top oenologists, will lead a presentation with fellow winemakers from Santorini for members of the trade and media.

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#### IN FOCUS

Sweet History: Vinsanto

By Doug Frost MS, MW

Greek wine
ambassador Doug
Frost set the record
straight on Vinsanto
at a seminar on
sweet wines at UC-Davis.



IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO IMAGINE TODAY, but a half-century ago sweet and dessert wines in the United States accounted for the majority of wines consumed. Fully two-thirds of all wines were dessert-styled wines, including sweet wines made without fortification (the addition of alcohol), as well as Ports and Sherries (albeit of the domestic persuasion), and other fortified wines.

It's easy to sneer at those times because clearly America's passion for wine was fuelled by its sweet tooth, and it's not a pretty world

#### HOT VIEW

The Wine House San Francisco: Why Sigalas Assyrtiko is a "Top 10" (SEE VIDEO)

### HOT DATE



#### HOT PICKS

Hatzidakis Santorini 2007 Sigalas Santorini Assyrtiko 2009 Estate Argyros, Santorini 2009

## HOT BUTTONS

Simply Greek: The New York Times features "Simple Pleasures in Traditional Greek Cuisine" in an online slideshow

Iconic Greek: GAIA Wines hits the mark on the island and on the mainland

#### **HOT STUFF**

Sweet Greek: Sommelier News clears up the Vinsanto / Vin Santo mess. where MD 2020 and Thunderbird far outsell Cabernet. Yes, we are a far more sophisticated bunch today. But while America has learned to love dry wines, it has somehow forgotten that sweet wines can be pretty wonderful too.

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#### ON THE RADAR



Technology met tastebuds at the 20th annual Boston Wine Expo in January. Thanks to a mobile app from Second Glass, attendees were able to taste and vote immediately on their favorite wines. Thumbs were flying and fingers tapping as voters entered their picks on their smartphones.

What got their thumbs up? 2009 Domaine Sigalas Assyrtiko, which garnered the popular vote of consumers—trumping all others to land in first place.

#### ON THE ROAD

PROVIDENCE, R.I.: Greek wine ambassador Doug Frost, MS, MW, presented two seminars to students and faculty at the School of Culinary Arts at Johnson & Wales University in Providence, R.I., last month. Frost provided an overview of the major winemaking regions, focusing on the indigenous varieties and their unique offerings on the international market.

"For many of these young students, the mineral character of the wines was revelatory; they just hadn't tasted wines with this much tangy crispness and distinct mineral character before."

NEW YORK CITY: Korinne Munson, director of marketing for All About Greek Wine conducted a tasting and presentation of Santorini wines to board members of the New York City chapter of the Slow Food USA. The group tasted several dry white 100% assyrtiko wines while learning about the indigenous grape, the volcanic terroir and the unique method of hand-training vines. Guests also learned about the origins and methods used to produce Vinsanto.



In his new book, Secrets of the Sommeliers, Rajat Parr, wine director of the prestigious Mina Restaurant Group calls Greece "a region to watch" and makes a special mention of Sigalas Assyrtiko.

"It has body and weight, yet is taut as a tightrope and sharp on the tongue with flavors of lemon zest and herbs..." says Parr, adding it is a wine that deserves to be on any top wine list.



Wines from Santorini



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

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