



PRESS RELEASE

Ben Ryé 2012 the most awarded wine

“Top Wine Guide” crowns the Donnafugata passito, best wine of Italy. Ben Ryé is the only wine, along with Sassicaia, to achieve excellence in all the 8 guides considered.

A recognition of the heroic viticulture of the island and the Sicilian winery's project.

“Top Wine Guide” published by the magazine *Civiltà del Bere*, assigns **Donnafugata Ben Ryé 2012 the highest podium among Italian wines, considering the judgments expressed by the 8 major wine guides in Italy.**

The Sicilian winery's Passito di Pantelleria and Tenuta San Guido Sassicaia 2011, are in fact the only two wines that have achieved excellence in all the guides considered.

The 2015 edition of Top Wine Guide will be presented at Vinitaly, Verona, by its publisher Alessandro Torcoli and is the fruit of the painstaking work of analyzing the reviews of the Italian guides: Duemilavini **Bibenda**, Guida Essenziale ai Vini Italiani **Daniele Cernilli**, I Vini d'Italia **Espresso**, Vini d'Italia **Gambero Rosso**, Slow Wine **Slow Food**, I Vini di **Veronelli**, Annuario dei Migliori Vini Italiani **Luca Maroni**, Vitae **Associazione Italiana Sommeliers**.

“This, to Ben Ryé, is yet another award to add to the very rich palmarès – **says Antonio Rallo, production manager for the family business** – that rewards our work and the heroic viticulture of the island where the *son of the wind* was born. On Pantelleria, in fact, the climate is hot and windy, the terrains are difficult and the vineyards are cultivated on small terraces sustained by dry built lava stone walls; the vine grows low in the typical alberello shape, in hollows dug in the soil, and thanks to skilful pruning – Antonio Rallo concludes – it extends horizontally to protect it from the wind.”

The work is almost entirely manual and for Donnafugata it involves about 68 hectares of vineyards in production; a viticulture that just a few months ago saw the inscription of **the alberello pantesco on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.**

A traditional agricultural practice, creative and sustainable, the fruit of the devotion of the Pantellerian farmer, that UNESCO wanted to celebrate and preserve together with the important intangible cultural heritage of humanity.

Marsala, March 2015

Press Office

Laura Ellwanger – International Press Relations Manager

pr.international@donnafugata.it T:+39 0923 724 263;c: +39 334 6833083

Baldo M. Palermo baldo.palermo@donnafugata.it cell. 348 2561221