

ENOFORUM 2009, the sixth edition a great success

"Lively and dynamic", "a unique opportunity to keep abreast of the latest innovations", "Enoforum is the only event that can bring together researchers and technicians from all over Italy": these were some of the comments collected from the nearly 800 participants at Enoforum.

The event took place from 21 to 23 April 2009, for the third consecutive edition at Piacenza Expo, the Piacenza exhibition centre, which proved to be an excellent venue in all respects.

Wine professionals, and in particular technicians, were the protagonists of the event, coming from all regions of Italy, including the south and the islands: the best oenologists and agronomists of the peninsula attended the conference proceedings for one or more days and made use of the numerous opportunities for furthering their knowledge and establishing connections with some of the most qualified researchers from Italy and around the world.

There were over 60 oral presentations, including 16 by internationally renowned foreign speakers, in the two conference halls, which were almost always at capacity despite the fact that they often ran concurrently. There were 76 posters on display throughout the conference, 15 of which were the subject of oral presentations.

Enoforum is becoming, edition after edition, the benchmark conference for Italian wine research: no less than 30 research institutes have contributed in various ways to the event, in other words, almost all the Italian groups involved in the sector.

One of the main innovations of this year's Enoforum, in collaboration with the technical journal of Viticulture and Oenology www.infowine.com, was the projection of video seminars, i.e. scientific lectures by international experts who, instead of coming in person, were recorded on video, subtitled in Italian. The more than 90 users of the new Infowine service particularly appreciated the original concept, and many requested to have them available on the web, streamed by Infowine, or even in a DVD version to be able to watch them again with their colleagues.

The professional wine tasting 'The Technical Challenges' also met with great interest: 23 wines produced under special conditions, using new technologies or exploiting new or rediscovered grape varieties, each accompanied by a description of what was achieved and with the opportunity to engage in discussion with the producer or technician who accepted the 'challenge'. An experience that is, without doubt, positive and is to be developed in order to highlight the skilful work, often forgotten, of so many Italian oenologists and agronomists with great capabilities.

The presentation of the SIVE (Italian Society of Viticulture and Oenology) Research Fund, which has obtained the patronage of the MIPAAF and is inspired by the Australian model of collective fundraising for wine research, was also particularly well attended.

The Fund aims to:

- identify research priorities in response to real needs of wine producers;
- to collect small amounts of funding from many companies in the sector, clearly aimed at one or more research projects;
- allow companies to participate directly in project selection, periodic monitoring of progress and approval, where necessary for the research work itself;
- ensure the positive impact of results on production and absolute transparency on the use of resources.

Enoforum 2009 was organised by Vinidea (www.vinidea.it) and SIVE (www.vinidea.it/sive), in collaboration with the Emilia-Romagna Region and under the patronage of OIV, MIPAAF, the Piacenza Chamber of Commerce and the Province of Piacenza.