Great Wines of Italy 2017 USA sees record wineries, attendees We had a feeling that Great Wines of Italy USA could break records—and we were right. A record 163 wineries poured across four cities (Miami, New York City, Beverly Hills, and San Francisco) and, as it would happen, a record number of consumers and trade registered (nearly 3,500!). The series kicked off last Sunday on the rooftop of the East hotel in Miami, where producers gathered for a glass of Bellavista sparkling and a few brief words from James. The tasting started the following Monday at the Moore Building in Miami's posh design district, though you would have thought it was the Friday of a three-day weekend judging by the crowd. Barely 45 minutes after doors opened, the two-story venue was packed (more than 700)—and stayed that way for the next four hours. The crowd was one of the

made a beeline for the Brunellos and Barolos, which were bundled together in a different section of the room near the booth for Sea Shepherd, which JS.com supports and invited to all four cities. Shout out to Andrew Zachy from Zachy's Wine & Liquor for doing a top-notch job setting up the wines. The next day the JS.com team flew to the west coast for our third city: Beverly Hills. The ballroom at the Montage Hotel, located near the city's famous Rodeo Drive, saw the same diverse, excited consumers and trade that we saw in Miami and New York. Countless winemakers and producers poured for this wide-ranging group, whose questions ranged from oak treatment to basic geography. Truly there was something for everybody in all four cities. As the night went on, the crowd (700 strong!) got younger, and by the end of the tasting, wineries were out of pours. That night