Teobaldo Cappellano has died

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ITALY (Piemont) - With the death of Teobaldo Cappellano, the Italian wine scene not only loses one if its most steadfast, but also one of its greatest winegrowers. He was a traditionalist, producer of Barolo and co-founder of the so called Vini Verci (real wine) movement. As an untiring activist, he has been propagating the traditional methods of the Barolo production all his life.

Together with Beppe Rinaldi and the already deceased Bartolo Mascarelli, the trio referred to itself as the "Last of the Mohicans". They were determined to produce the Barolo in the classical manner. "Traditional methods are provincialism, so what?", provoked Cappallano in a round of talks. Furthermore, he explained: "In my opinion, our way of wine production differs from those being practised elsewhere and this is the reason why our wines are bought by consumers."

His "complicated" Barolos have only been produced in small quantities. His Barolo Otin Fiorin Piè Franco, made with grapes from ungrafted vines, was in particular popular among international wine lovers and collectors. When asked by journalists and wine experts if he would be afraid of phylloxera (Viteus vitifoliae), he used to say: "At least I will be able to claim that I had fun making these wines and that my customers enjoyed these wines as well."

Teobaldo Cappellano, a respected and also famous producer and untiring fighter defending his methods of the traditional Barolo production, was 65 years old. (aw.yoopress)