

## BRITISH PHILOSOPHER AWARDED MASI CIVILTÀ' DEL VINO PRIZE

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British philosopher Roger Scruton has won the 2016 Masi Civiltà del Vino Prize and will autograph the traditional Amarone barrel that goes with the award on 1 October this year.



Academician, curator, publisher, lawyer and author of works on subjects spanning the worlds of aesthetics, ethics and politics, Scruton (pictured) "has provoked the intellectual world with his deeply-held polemical arguments for decades," said the citation.

"His book '*I drink therefore I am*' traces the history and the philosophical implications of a subject that forms one of the corner stones of western civilisation, highlighting its material and spiritual values".

Considered one of the most famous and influential contemporary conservative philosophers – pro-European in spirit, but a supporter of Brexit – Scruton has used his intellectual talent in the explanation and defence of western culture.

The first section of his oeno-cultural guide, the product of 12 years of work, is autobiographical and tells the story of Scruton's initiation into wine, French in particular, but with many references to Italian wine too, from Chianti to Nero d'Avola, and even Aglianico.

Philosophy comes to the fore in the second part of the book: with the aesthetics and religious meanings of wine described in a clear and concise manner.

In a lighter touch, the index pairs great philosophers with wine, such as a glass of Chianti with Hegel's "*Phenomenology of the Spirit*", while Montepulciano, "king of wines", is deemed best for reading with Thomas Aquinas.

The prize's creator, Sandro Boscaini, head of Masi Agricola, said: "The choice of Roger Scruton is further enhancement of the cultural guidelines that the Prize Jury have adopted over the last 35 years. He sees wine in its truest and widest sense, that is not just as a simple drink but as a witness to the times and the history of a people and their territory."

The other winners of the XXXV Masi Prize are: artist Giosetta Fioroni, life companion of the Veneto writer Goffredo Parise (the 30th anniversary of his death falls this year); cartoonist and designer Lorenzo Mattotti; comic actor and writer Natalino Balasso (all three in the Civiltà Veneta section), and author and philosopher Ágnes Heller for the Grosso d'Oro Veneziano Prize.