**Press Release**

**42nd MASI PRIZE**

**WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

**THEME: ROOTS AND VISIONS**

**PRIZE WINNERS:**

**CIVILTA' VENETA: Mario Cannella, Andrea Rinaldo, Stevanato Group**

**CIVILTA' DEL VINO: Yuko and Shin Kibayashi**

**GROSSO D'ORO VENEZIANO: Rakhshan Banietemad**

**FRIDAY 27th OCTOBER 2023**

**AMARONE BARREL SIGNING AND LIVE STREAMING EVENT FROM THE PARISH CHURCH OF SAN GIORGIO DI VALPOLICELLA**

*Gargagnago di Valpolicella (VR), 14 September 2023* - Once again, **the 42nd edition of the Masi Prize will see five outstanding personalities signing the famous barrel of Amarone at the Masi winery headquarters in Valpolicella on 27th October,** personalities whose skills and experience best interpret the **"Roots and Visions"** theme that the Juries followed in choosing the winners of the three sections. Here are the names. For the **Civiltà Veneta Prize**: the internationally renowned lexicographer **Mario Cannella**; the hydraulic engineer **Andrea Rinaldo**, recently awarded the 'Nobel Prize for Water'; and the **Stevanato Group**, a historic Venetian company and leading manufacturer of glass containers for medicines. Two Japanese men, **Yuko and Shin Kibayashi**, authors of the highly original manga about wine called 'The Drops of God', are awarded the **Civiltà del Vino Prize**. Finally, the recipient of the **Grosso d'Oro Veneziano Prize** is Iranian film director Rakhshan Banietemad, for her fight to promote democracy and women's civil rights, particularly in her own country.

*"The main theme of the Masi Prize 2023 is 'Roots and Visions'. Which is a contradiction in terms. But that’s what it must be, because it is the only way forward for all of us who need to cherish our valuable traditions and look forward, or innovate, at the same time,”* explains the **President of the Masi Foundation, writer, journalist Isabella Bossi Fedrigotti**. *" At a time when uncertainty pervades thoughts and behaviour, a concentration on roots presents no obstacles to change, but instead provides the certainty of nourishment in the exploration of new paths.”*

The **Foundation's Vice-President and President of Masi, Sandro Boscaini**, adds: *"The jury of the International Civiltà del Vino Prize could not have been more in tune with 'Roots and Visions'. In fact, it has given the award to a way of talking about wine, the manga, which since its birth in Japan and with potential in many other countries recently opened to wine, transmits its message in the spirit of a symbol of ancient culture.* *In general, a more appealing communication for young people.”*

**Marco Vigevani, Secretary of the Masi Foundation** emphasises: *“The Venetian Grosso D'Oro has always brought to light a message of culture and solidarity and civil progress in the world. It seemed extremely topical this year to highlight the discrimination that afflicts women in Iran and beyond, and we do so through the work of a great Iranian film director, who has paid particular attention to human rights in her long and award-winning career."*

**CITATIONS 42nd MASI PRIZE**

**MASI CIVILTA' VENETA PRIZE**

*The award is given to personalities - Venetian by birth, family or adoption - who have distinguished themselves in the fields of literature, art, journalism, science, entertainment and economics, and who through their work have promoted and enhanced the skills of the people of Veneto in the widest fields of human activity, making themselves the standard bearers for the fundamental values of this land.*

**Mario Cannella**

*“Lexicographer from Trieste, a tireless investigator of the details of the Italian language who has edited the Zingarelli dictionary. He has played a leading role in affirming and disseminating, also with the younger generation, the idea of our language as a living and constantly evolving organism that cannot be arbitrarily deformed or artificially preserved.*

*His prize is for his contribution to the in-depth study of the traditions and evolution of the Italian language”.*

**Andrea Rinaldo**

*“A Venetian hydraulic engineer, professor of hydraulic engineering at the University of Padua, and director of the Laboratory of Ecohydrology at the École Polytechnique Fédérale in Lausanne, Rinaldo was the first Italian to win the Stockholm Water Prize, the "Nobel Prize" for water studies.*

*One of the pioneers of ecohydrology, which studies the relationship between river water and living communities, whether human, animal or vegetal.*

*His prize is for the importance of his extremely topical studies aimed at a fair distribution of water, one of the great global issues of today and tomorrow”.*

**Stevanato Group**

*“A pharmaceutical company based in Padua telling the incredible story of how a small Venetian glasswork – Soffieria Stella di Zelarino near Venice, the heir to the centuries-old culture of glassmaking*

*in Murano – which, from 1949 to the present day, has succeeded in becoming a world leader in the medical sector, listed on the New York stock exchange, making highly specialised containers for insulin, vaccines and many other drugs.*

*The prize was awarded for the company's global success in a continuing tradition that draws on the culture and techniques of the Venetian region”.*

**MASI INTERNATIONAL CIVILTA’ DEL VINO PRIZE**

*Given to personalities in the wider world of winemaking and viticulture who have contributed internationally to enhancing the ancient culture of vines and wine.*

**Yuko and Shin Kibayashi**

*“Brother authors of the ‘seinen’ manga (for young and adult readers) about wine 'Kami no shizuku' - 'The Drops of God'. With their work printed in over 500,000 copies per week and translated into several languages, they tell the story of the discovery of wine in an explanatory and revelatory way.*

*Their prize is for their important contribution to the understanding and promotion of the ancient culture of wine using a highly original and completely new form of communication capable of conveying an unconventional message to an audience approaching wine and its traditions for the first time”.*

**MASI INTERNATIONAL GROSSO D'ORO VENEZIANO PRIZE**

*Given to personalities who have contributed to spreading a message of culture in the world, generating the understanding between peoples that develops into solidarity, civil progress and peace.*

**Rakhshan Banietemad**

*“Iranian film director and screenwriter: with her films and documentaries she has succeeded in portraying the daily life and the dramatic events happening in her country like no one else, giving her stories and characters a universal value.*

*She is honoured for the high artistic value of her work and for her defence of civil rights and democracy in Iranian society”.*

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**The award ceremony will be streamed live from the Pieve di San Giorgio di Valpolicella**

**on Friday 27 October at 6.30 p.m.**

on Masi Foundation website: <https://www.fondazionemasi.com/en/masi-prize/> - in English

on the Facebook page @MasiWines - in Italian

on the Instagram page @MasiWines - in English

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**MASI FOUNDATION:**

The Masi Foundation has the aim of promoting and enhancing the territory, the population, the cultural heritage, the great ingenuity and the productive skills of the Veneto. Particular attention is paid to culture and wine production, which are distinctive features of the Veneto region. Activities are carried out at a national and international level and also in collaboration with government entities, other public and private bodies, foundations, and Italian and foreign organisations. The Masi Foundation was set up in 2001 following the experience gained in 20 years of the Masi Prize, whose continuity and direction it intends to ensure, flanking it with a series of initiatives in the cultural sphere and thus extending its focus to the wider world where the values of the culture of the Veneto are an inspiration and stimulus for productive, cultural and civil progress on an international scale. On 16 April 2007 the Veneto Region gave the Masi Foundation legal status, recognising its values and statutory aims.

**Masi Foundation Board**

**President**: Isabella Bossi Fedrigotti

**Vice President**: Sandro Boscaini

**Secretary**: Marco Vigevani

**Auditor**: Giovanni Aspes

**Board members**: Michele Bauli, Francesco Benedetti, Bruno Boscaini, Marzio Breda, Franca Coin, Massimilla di Serego Alighieri, Federico Girotto, Maurizio Marino.

**Civiltà Veneta Prize Commission**: Sandro Boscaini, Isabella Bossi Fedrigotti, Marzio Breda, Franca Coin, Gabriele Colleoni, Ilvo Diamanti, Massimilla di Serego Alighieri, Massimo Ferro, Francesco Giavazzi, Stefano Lorenzetto, Piergaetano Marchetti, Paola Marini, Pilade Riello, Paolo Possamai, Giovanni Maria Vian, Marco Vigevani, Stefano Zecchi, Filiberto Zovico.

**Civiltà del Vino Prize Commission**: Federico Castellucci, Piero Antinori, Sandro Boscaini, Luciano Ferraro, Angelo Gaja, Jens Priewe, Ezio Rivella, Alessandro Torcoli. *Spokesperson*: Federico Castellucci.

[www.fondazionemasi.com](http://www.fondazionemasi.com)