For something different

Napa: Birds and Snakes Partner With Grapegrowers

Owls aren’t the only beneficial predators in vineyards.

Grapegrowers happily welcome hawks and owls to their vineyards, but other birds (and snakes) can also rout pests.

Some new research about owls could help growers attract even more. Every grower knows that barn owls eats rodents, but they may not appreciate how many critters one family of owls can consume: 3,000 or more in a year. Owls hunt in the dark and at dusk when many rodents and other small animals like voles are active, while hawks patrol in the daytime.

Another class of bird offers benefits, too, but has not been studied as much as owls and raptors. These are insect-eaters.

And snakes.

Click here to read more

Major Wine Producing Countries

Italy aims to boost wine sales on Alibaba network ten-fold

Italy and Alibaba hope to boost the share of Italian wine sold on the Chinese e-commerce network 10-fold as part of wider moves to increase Italian wine exports to China where it still lags France and other wine-making peers.

“Chinese people have a passion for all things Italian. Alibaba wants to be the gateway to China for Italian brands and small businesses,” Ma said, speaking at Italy’s Vinitaly wine fair in the northern city of Verona.

Click here to read more