GRAPPA di PRAtolunGo

by Alberto Alessi and Laura Pessina

Last year, designer Alberto Alessi launched his wine label, fulfilling his dream of producing wine in his native Lake Orta, located to the west of Lake Maggiore in northern Italy. In 2001, he and his wife Laura Pessina bought a 16th-century farmstead there (which was renovated by their friend and colleague Alessandro Mendini), and a few years later started working on the first wines under the label La Signora Eugenia e il Passero Solitario – meaning Madam Eugenia and the Solitary Sparrow, after the house’s original owner and the local fauna. This winter, grappa was added to the production.

Six years in the making, the fine Italian spirit is the fruit of a collaboration with local distilleries and features different grapes, depending on each year’s harvest. The identity of the project and the labels were created by Spanish designer Martí Guixé, a long-time Alessi collaborator, and each bottle is numbered and signed by Alessi and Pessina.

€44 for 50cl, from La Signora Eugenia e il Passero Solitario, lasignoraeugeniaeilpasserosolitario.com

VINTAGE LABELS

from A Vida Portuguesa

Our friend Sir Paul Smith saw this collection of old Portuguese labels and thought we would like them. Including designs from spirit and syrup specialist Fábrica Âncora, once based in Lisbon’s fashionable Chiado district, the labels are now available to buy in sets of 12-15 from our favourite local souvenir purveyor, A Vida Portuguesa.

Through a combination of art nouveau motifs and hand-lettered typography, the colourful labels offer a fascinating glimpse into a golden age of packaging design. avidaportuguesa.com

BRECON ESTATE WINERY

by Aidlin Darling

The Brecon Estate Winery’s recent makeover is the brainchild of San Francisco practice Aidlin Darling Design. Located in Paso Robles (the fastest growing wine region in California), the estate was housed in a building that ‘had virtually no relationship to the land that surrounded it’, explain the architects Joshua Aidlin and David Darling. They completely reorganized the production facility, partly cladding it in untreated cedar. The tasting area (pictured here) is a key element of the new design. Spilling out onto a cantilevered deck, it creates a clever transition between indoors and outdoors. Future plans include a new subterranean production facility.

breconestate.com; aidlindarlingdesign.com

UNDER/STANDING SCULPTURE

by Studio Dror

New Zealand’s Brancott Estate has enlisted Dror Benshetrit to create an installation for its vineyards, where the world’s first Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc was created in 1979. The New York-based designer was inspired by the combination of science and art that Brancott stands for, which reminded him of his own passion for geometry and physics. His sculptures, a render of which is pictured above, is to be unveiled in 2016. The 9m-tall Corten steel structure appears to be stretching open through its network of rhomboid shapes. Called Under/standing, it has inspired a limited-edition steel wine rack, also available next year. brancottestate.com