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## **THE BEST OF TUSCANY AND THE VENETO**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Antonio Galloni, founder and publisher of the *Piedmont Report*, will be moderating the Connoisseur Tasting, *Vino d'Italia: The Best of Tuscany and the Veneto*, on Saturday, May 10 at The Westin as part of the 2008 Charlotte Wine & Food Weekend, presented by University Volvo. Galloni will be leading Leonardo Locascio, Marilisa Allegrini and Alberto Antonini in a discussion that explores the finest wines from the from the Tuscan and Veneto regions of Italy.

“Galloni began the *Piedmont Report* at a very young age and was invited by Robert M. Parker Jr. to join *The Wine Advocate*,” said Bill Ives, chair of the 2008 Charlotte Wine & Food Weekend. “As an experienced wine critic, Galloni will bring a wealth of knowledge to this event and to the entire weekend.”

Leonardo Locascio is the CEO and president of Winebow, Inc., and is one of the most recognized importers/distributors of fine wine in the world. “Participants in the Connoisseur Tasting are in for a treat with Locascio’s impeccable taste in choosing wine,” says Ives.

Born into a winemaking family, Marilisa Allegrini has guided her family’s vineyard, Allegrini, into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with innovativeness and passion. Together, Locascio, Allegrini and Alberto Antonini, a well-known Tuscan winemaker and international consultant, have joined in a new venture, Poggio al Tesoro wines, to create the latest powerhouse in the wine business.

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Some of the wines Galloni will be discussing include Allegrini Valpolicella DOC, Poggio al Tesoro Sondaia Supertuscan, San Polo Mezzopane and Fortediga Cabernet Syrah Maremma Toscana. Tickets are still available for \$250.

Tickets for the 2008 Charlotte Wine & Food Weekend are available online at [www.charlottewineandfood.com](http://www.charlottewineandfood.com). Proceeds benefit the five community partners of the 2008 Charlotte Wine & Food Weekend: Allegro Foundation, Charlotte Symphony, Hospitality House of Charlotte, Johnson & Wales University scholarship fund and KinderMourn.

Since its inception in 1990, the Charlotte Wine & Food Weekend has grown into one of the Southeast's largest wine events and has raised more than \$2.7 million for local charities. Held in the spring of every even-numbered year, the Weekend draws notable winemakers from around the world and pairs them with Charlotte's top chefs for three days of fun and educational events. The 2008 Charlotte Wine & Food Weekend, presented by University Volvo, will take place Wednesday, May 7, through Saturday, May 10. For more information, visit [www.charlottewineandfood.com](http://www.charlottewineandfood.com).

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