

IL SOLE 24 ORE

February, 7 2014

BEST OF ITALY

«*Abbado, the Missonis and grappa, of course*»

These are my “Best of Italy”

1. **Grappa** because it is the symbol distillate of our Country. When it is high quality, it is able to compete with all the world's greatest distillates on the same level.
2. **Pasta with mackerel**. It is a recipe Leonardo Sciascia taught me in 1988: he spent his summer holidays in our house in Percoto and wrote “The knight and death”, his second-last novel.
3. **Claudio Abbado**. He was one of the Italian geniuses and one of the greatest conductors in the world. A person of extraordinary humanity who I had the chance of meeting: thanks to him I first came close and then got in love with lyric and symphony music.
4. **The Amalfi coast** because it is one of the most beautiful places in the world for its landscape, fragrances and colors. I love two villages in particular: Positano and Ravello.
5. **The mosaics of the basilica of Aquileia** because I'm very bound to the treasures of my land and because they are a unique evidence of the great artistic culture of the post-Christian Rome.
6. **The Rose of Gorizia** because it is a kind of chicory with a unique richness of taste. No other place in the world has a variety of chicories and salads like the triveneto.
7. **Altamura bread** because it is a precious product of our gastronomy, which accompanies and exalts the tastes of immensely rich Italian regional tradition.
8. **Missoni's fashion and haute couture**. Ottavio and Rosita revolutionized the language and style of knitwear, turning it into an excellence of the made in Italy.
9. **The Friulian contemporary poetry by Pierluigi Cappello, Gianmario Villalta and Ida Vallerugo**. Because it is solid and rarefied like the range of the Alps in winter, when the sky is clear.
10. **Murano glass** because it is one of the symbols of Italian mastery in high level craftsmanship. It is an ancient and precious manufacturing, with a unique care of the details, which must be protected and safeguarded, otherwise it runs the risk of disappearing.

By Antonella Nonino
Managing Director of Nonino Distillatori
With her sisters Cristina and Elisabetta

(Text collected by Federico De Cesare Viola)

Positano. The famous view of the town on the Amalfi coast, one of Nonino's choices.