

Town & Country

ESTABLISHED IN 1846

ITALY'S SECRET CHARMS

UMBRIA
ROME
FLORENCE
VENICE

ITALIAN SPARKLE

Maurizio Zanella may be the best Italian wine producer you've never heard of. Not only is his winery, **Ca' del Bosco** ("house in the woods"), located in the less-traveled northern region of Franciacorta (a thirty-minute drive from Milan), but Zanella's specialty is high-end sparkling wine, a type not automatically associated with Italy. At forty-six, Zanella's already an icon in his home country, and he has some well-placed American fans, including Le Cirque 2000's Sirio Maccioni and wine expert Robert Mondavi. After Mondavi visited Ca' del Bosco's huge cellar, where Zanella gives his heralded *méthode champenoise* sparklers much more aging time than Italian law requires (an expensive use of precious winery space), "Robert told me that I am the only man in the wine business who's crazier than he is," Zanella says.

The famously free-spirited Zanella began his business from scratch at sixteen after his father exiled him to the family's summer place in Franciacorta for getting into too much trouble in Milan. The latest evidence of Zanella's passion is a \$20 million addition—a sleek contemporary building by Italian architect Roberto Falconi—that will be open to the public when it's completed in October. Chief among its virtues will be even more space for letting sleeping wines lie. *For retailers, call Paterno Wines at 847-604-8900.* TED LOOS

APRIL 2003
U.S. \$4.00
CANADA \$5.00
FOREIGN \$5.00



Sargent's *Scuola di San Rocco*.

FROM ITALY Since the days of the grand tour, artists have sought inspiration in Italy. Among Americans, the painter John Singer Sargent had an advantage: he spent part of his childhood there and received his first art lessons in Florence, his birthplace. Once established as a society portraitist in London, Sargent frequently returned to Italy. This spring, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art offers "**Sargent and Italy**" (through May 11), the first show to concentrate on the fruits of these journeys. Organized in conjunction with Italy's Ferrara Arte museum, the exhibition includes oil paintings and watercolors from collections around the world. It is divided into segments that display scenes in or near Venice, Capri, Carrara and the Italian Alps and also includes a

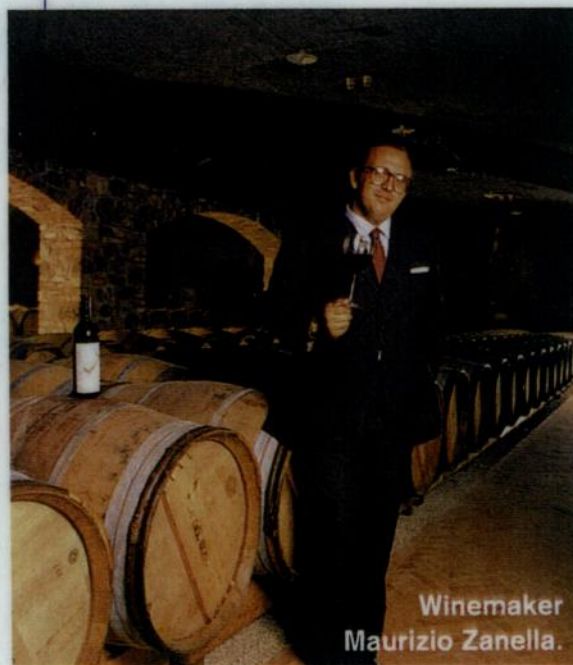


Whistler's *Piazzetta*.

section devoted to portraits of the artist's female acquaintances, fetchingly garbed in harem costumes or draped in cashmere shawls. (The show will then run at the Denver Art Museum from June 28 to September 21.)

Sargent's Italian work also appears in "**Whistler and His Circle in Venice**" at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. (through May 5). This fascinating show, one of many commemorating the centennial of James Abbott McNeill Whistler's death, focuses on paintings Whistler made around 1880, during the fourteen months he spent in Venice, where he looked for scenes that were off the tourist track. The exhibit includes work by his contemporaries and later artists such as the photographer Alfred Stieglitz. *For Sargent show: 323-857-6000; lacma.org. For Whistler show: 202-639-1700; corcoran.org.*

CAROL KING



Winemaker Maurizio Zanella.

PHOTOGRAPH, BOTTOM RIGHT, BY MARINI-ROVATO (BS). IMAGE, BOTTOM LEFT, COURTESY NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART, WASHINGTON, D.C.