

## Salvatore Ferragamo

grandson of the famous Italian shoe designer showcases his wine at Alioli Ristorante

story Laurie Wallace-Lynch

alvatore Ferragamo may share the same name as his famous grandfather, the late "shoemaker to the stars," but this Salvatore is determined to forge his own path by promoting his passion: Wine. The winemaker was recently the guest of honour at an exclusive wine pairing dinner at *Alioli Ristorante*, featuring Il Borro Toscana wines from the Ferragamo family estate winery in Tuscany, Italy.

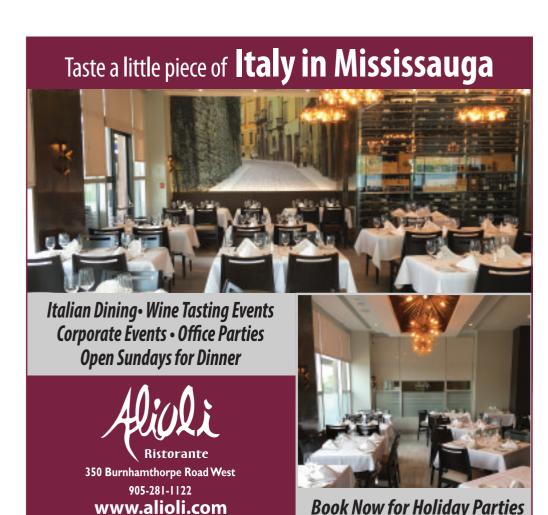
"My father (Ferruccio Ferragamo) bought the property in 1993 and at the time, it was abandoned and in a state of total disrepair," explains Salvatore Ferragamo. "We

were able to replant the vineyards and bring them back to life, and what attracted us to the property, is that it has a medieval village. Visitors can stay in a village that is over 1,000 years old! The entire property was transformed and restored to its former glory, including the addition of a *Relais & Chateaux* hotel and spa."

Il Borro is a 700-acre estate in the heart of Tuscany. It's a picturesque area of rolling hills, streams and natural forests. The winery sits about 300 to 400 metres above sea level making the soil ideal for cultivating grape vines and olive trees. The first Il Borro Tuscano wines were launched



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in 1999, and today, the Ferragamo family produces several varieties of world class II Borro Tuscano wines which are shipped to numerous countries around the globe.

Several of Salvatore's favourite wines were selected to be paired with the multi-course dinner at Alioli Restaurant under the direction of Massimo Ronaghi. The evening began with NV Bolle di Borro wines followed by an appetizer course of Salmone Marinato Agli Agrum (curried salmon with green apple, cheese mousse and salmon eggs) paired with Il Borro 2018 Lamelle Chardonnay. The first course featured Fettuccini Salsa di Coniglio Con Pomodoro (fettucini with ragu of rabbit) paired with 2016 Pian di Nova, while Veal Shank braised in a 2015 Il Borro Toscana wine was served as the second course. For dessert, homemade Toscana Cantuccini was matched with Vinsanto Il Borro. This is the second exclusive Il Borro Toscana wine pairing dinner held at Alioli's over the years. "Massimo and my family have been friends for years," adds Salvatore.

Il Borro winery and the Salvatore Ferragamo fashion brand are two separate entities and yet the Ferragamo name garners international recognition in both fashion and wine circles. "Fashion and wine are connected in terms of the attention to detail and passion to create the best products possible," says Salvatore. "We are proud to be one of the first regular working DOC certified organic wineries in the region with a focus on biosustainability. Our love and respect for the land is evident through our use of natural pesticide-free fertilizers and all practices are oriented toward sustainability for future generations."

Il Borro boasts one of the oldest cellars in Italy where the first-ever Chianti was produced. Today the magic continues as expert wine makers turn grapes into fine wines in vats, barrels and barriques (clay pots where wine is aged for five or more years).

Salvatore grew up in Italy, attended boarding school in England and moved to the United States to attend university; earning an MBA at New York University. He could have joined the luxury fashion brand Salvatore Ferragamo Group (his father serves as Chairman and his twin brother James is Director of Women's and Men's Shoe & Leather Goods), but after working as an auditor for several years, Salvatore chose to join II Borro wines.

Looking like he stepped off the cover of GQ Magazine and undoubtedly dressed in his family's fashion and footwear, Salvatore never got to meet his famous grandfather who passed away in 1960, but he shares a legacy that has been passed down through the years. For more information on Il Borro Estate Wines visit www.ilborrowtoscano. com and Alioi Restaurant www.alioli.com.