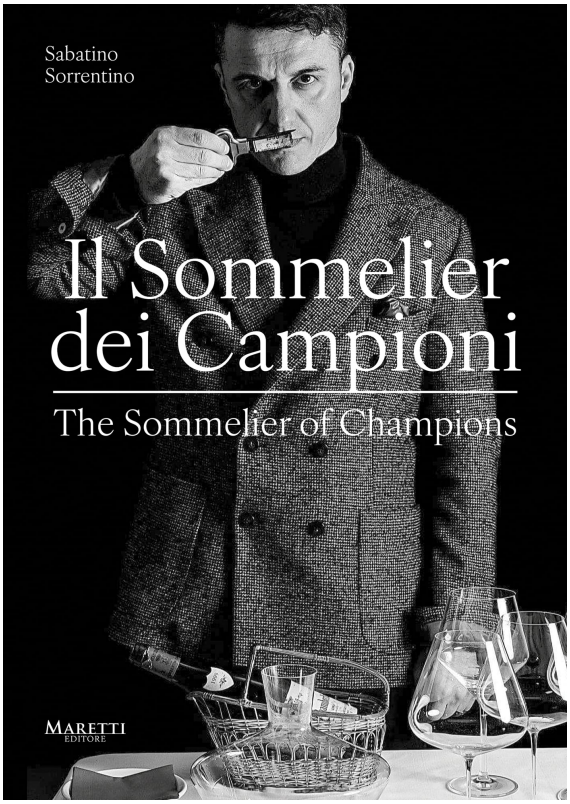
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Tel: +1 212 645 1111
Email: ussales@accartbooks.com
Web: https://www.accartbooks.com/us



The Sommelier of Champions

Il Sommelier dei Campioni

Sabatino Sorrentino

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- **Legendary Football Roster:** The young me would have loved to score a goal against the legendary **Seba Frey** or the great **Júlio César**, and maybe thanks to an assist from the mythical **Ronaldinho.** I would dream of perfectly cross-passing towards the great striker **Amauri's** head, to play **Samuel Eto'o** in for the goal, to weave through **Vincent Candela** or **Marek Jankulovski,** to cleverly intercept **Ciro Ferrara**, to play a one-two with **Bam Bam Iván Zamora** or the star player **Eden Hazard** at the Bernabéu Stadium.
- **The Ultimate Crossover:** A unique exploration of the intersection between elite professional sports and the world-class viticulture of the **"Wine of the Champions"** project.
- **From Fan to Peer:** Written by an **Italian Master Sommelier,** this narrative follows the journey from dreaming of these legends from the stands to partnering with them in the vineyard.
- **Inspirational Storytelling:** A poignant look at how "dreams never grow old," celebrating the passion, sacrifice, and enduring legacies that remain long after the final whistle blows.

"I tasted a wine with respect, I was moved… and almost without realizing it, I was already writing this book. Throughout my career as an Italian Master Sommelier, I have found great satisfaction, but this experience is a gift I keep in my heart.

From that spark, an unexpected journey was born. It led me to Fabio Cordella's project, *The Wine of the Champions*, and allowed me to meet legendary figures such as Ronaldinho, Seba Frey, Júlio César, Amauri, Iván Zamorano, Ciro Ferrara, Vincent Candela, Samuel Eto'o, Marek Jankulovski, and Giorgio Petrosyan. As well as many new friends.

Between shared glasses and authentic bonds, I tell a story defined by passion and sacrifice. This book is dedicated to those who dream without excuses; starting from the bottom and climbing to the top has been a true privilege. After all, careers eventually end—but wine, friendships, and stories linger."

Text in English and Italian

Sabatino Sorrentino was born in 1976 in Pagani, Salerno, and grew up in Sant'Edigio del Monte Albino, a little medieval village in the same province. In his career, he boasts collaborations with prestigious Italian publishers with whom he published books and magazines in the wine and food sector, among which La Repubblica, L'Espresso, Spirito di Vino, VITAE A.I.S. He is passionate about contemporary art, fine wines, cured meats and wine pairing. The turning point of his life was in 1997, when he moved to Albinea, in the early hills of Reggio Emilia, where he still lives and works.

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