



Alberto Dell'Acqua

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Alberto Dell'Acqua was born in 1951, and since 1973 has lived in Lugano, Switzerland, working as a journalist and publishing a trilingual international glossy magazine, *Gastronomie & Tourisme* (in German, French, and Italian) of which he is also editor in chief. The trademark of his work is a highly original style that characterizes all his publications, including *CucinaBella* (2003) *Foody: Historic and Culinary Encounters Between the Swiss and the British* (2004) *OperaPrima: Encounters at Teatro La Scala, Milan* (2006) with contributions by composer Riccardo Muti and by Letizia Moratti, former Mayor of Milan. A sophisticated connoisseur of cuisine, Dell'Acqua collaborates with various newspapers and magazines, and frequently contributes to radio and TV programmes. He was a correspondent for the Italian publishing group L'Espresso for fifteen years, and was perhaps the first to educate Swiss TV audiences in the appreciation of good wines as well as presenting the activities of Swiss sommeliers. He was later instrumental in establishing the Swiss Association of Sommeliers. Alberto Dell'Acqua is one of Europe's major wine and gastronomic experts: he was named Gastronomic Journalist of the Year in 1986 by the Académie Internationale du Vin in Geneva, was a recipient of the Medaille Vermeille de la Ville de Paris, a top honour granted by the French government, he has also been knighted Cavaliere della Repubblica Italiana. These honours are but a few among many accolades which over the years have confirmed Dell'Acqua's commitment to both readers and viewers in presenting the lives of extraordinary characters that have influenced history and culture. The protagonists of the chapters in his book *D'Vinis* are equally beguiling historical characters. The book, published in Italian, French, and German won the «*Best Book of Switzerland*» prize in 2008, and in 2009 was named the «*Best Wine Book in the World*» at the prestigious Gourmand World Book Awards in the historic setting of the Comédie Française, Paris. (DMF)