

CORRIERE DELLA SERA

That collective of bartenders defending the Amazon sauce P(our), the international charity project that has won the Nonino Risit d'Aur Prize 2018

Theirs is a story that goes through far worlds, from Europe – where they come from, Italy, London, Norway and Germany – to the Amazon forest. That land, on the border between Peru and Venezuela, inhabited by the Bora tribe where the aji negro sauce is born, which they, the seven young bartenders of the P(our) collective, have decided to defend. This is the Amazon project thanks to which the nonprofit organization has been awarded the Nonino Prize Risit d'Aur, Gold vine shoot, 2018 that will be delivered in Percoto (Udine), in the premises of the Friulian distillery, during tomorrow's ceremony. «I would like to recall the words of the director Peter Brook – said Antonella Nonino, in charge of the prize and, together with her sisters, the manager of the family company – who three years ago said that our prize honors, in all its categories, the deep search for humanity. Well, this year, with the acknowledgement to P(our), the union of the words our and pure, that sentence is particularly true».

The seven bartenders (among whom the Italian Simone Caporale of the famous Artesian Bar in London), therefore, in 2016 founded P(our) with the aim of creating a community of bartenders, sommeliers and distillers and stimulate them to take care also of important matters as humanitarian projects. Among which, the support to the Bora community, exploited for years, to preserve the thousand year old tradition of the aji negro, a sauce that is obtained from the fermentation of manioc and which is used in cookery to flavor cocktails. «The group has also supplied 44 houses to the Bora families, in the Peruvian village of Pucuarquillo – says Nonino -, and is holding a commercial course to sell the aji negro, that's to say the bases of marketing to make people understand how much that product is a value for them». So, in conclusion, P(our) has gained one of the three Nonino Prizes that this year – with the jury presided by V.S. Naipaul and composed, among the others, by Claudio Magris and Ermanno Olmi – have been awarded to Ismail Kadare and Giorgio Agamben as well. At the awarding ceremony, tomorrow at 11:00, they will celebrate with NoninoTonic: «We have always made experiments, even if we continue to distil grappa with the artisanal method – explains Antonella Nonino -. And with this new long drink we carry on our idea of grappa based cocktails. They work». A little like the P(our) collective.

I. Fan.