

# Ambassador



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SPECIAL NIAF  
*45th Anniversary*  
*Gala*  
*Edition*

NIAF Gala Honoree  
Dr. Anthony Fauci



Courtesy of La Scolca



Goodman/Van Ripper Photography

### Crushing It

Not many women lead and own Italian wineries. Chiara Soldati does. She runs her family’s 100-year old family business that has been passed down from her father, and from his father. We caught up with Soldati in Dubai where she was marketing La Scolca wines.

Today, La Scolca’s production is close to 1 million bottles; Soldati has increased the number of new sellers and now exports to 46 countries. See, Soldati is the Italian word for “soldiers,” and that’s what she is as she spearheaded the 100-year-old business, soldiering on to produce one of the Piedmont’s leading, environmentally friendly, and chemical-free wines.

Meanwhile, she embraces women’s empowerment initiatives (half of her employees are women working in the warehouse to the laboratory, administration to chief of vineyards). Italy was conservative “when I started 25 years ago,” she says. “For me, it was a very hard challenge.”

For its elegant signature white wine that the estate “invented” in the 1950s, La Scolca uses Cortese grapes that are native to Piemonte’s Gavi region, an hour north of Genoa. Soldati manages 123 acres of vineyards; each row of vine covers 124 miles. With precise winemaking techniques, the estate harvests the grapes with a computer-controlled system that ensures the Cortese purity.

“We believe that the land is something we need to respect,” says Soldati, who soldiers on her family’s legacy. Visit [www.lascolca.net/en/](http://www.lascolca.net/en/).

— *Allyson Portee*



Courtesy of La Scolca

### Restoring Outdoors

“I have always had a love for the outdoors and art. I find a synergy between the two,” says Christine Morano Magee, a multi-talented Washingtonian by way of the Bronx who recently became director of Education for the Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy (DOPC).

The charitable non-profit was formed in 2010 to create an urban jewel of the Park’s once-lush 27 acres of woods in Georgetown that had become badly neglected. That’s surprising given its proximity to the elegant Dumbarton Oaks estate, where, near the end of World War II, international talks there gave rise to the United Nations.

The DOPC relies on volunteers and contributors to do its work—and Morano Magee seems a good fit for its outreach efforts following a distinguished career in education. She holds a doctorate in Education, as well as two other advanced degrees.

Proud to be “100 percent Italian,” her grandparents on both sides emigrated from Avellino and Benevento to Ellis Island.

“My love of nature goes back to my childhood,” she says. “My grandfather, who lived in the Bronx, had a wonderful backyard, lush with foliage, including a vegetable garden, chicken coop, flowers and grape vines. He made his own wine.”

Every Sunday her extended family would gather there. “After dinner my cousins, brother and I would run around the yard,” she recalls, “feeling as if we were far away from the busy city.”

— *Frank Van Ripper*



Goodman/Van Ripper Photography