

3+2 = TROUBLE Ten years after Italian university reform that established the so-called **3+2 system**, namely a three-year track leading to a BA, with two more years earmarked for a specialized, or Masters degree, Italy finds itself in last place in turning out doctors. **Only 60 in 1,000 Italian students between 20 and 29 have gone on to seek specialized training**, compared to 77 in France and 80 in the UK and Denmark. The situation is worse when it comes to scientific disciplines, with 12.1 in every 1,000 going on to an advanced degree, well below the European average of 13.8. The number of full-time researchers joining companies is also down. **Between 1998 and 2009, the number of researchers rose 14 percent in Italy**, compared to 40 percent in Germany, 100 percent in France, and 300 percent in Spain. *Source Almalaura*

FACEBOOKOIKA Facebook has some **500 million users worldwide**, but Russia is something of a holdout. While Facebook counts some 1.6 Russian users, that's nothing compared to Russia's Cyrillic-based social network giant Vkontakte, which has 75 million users in Russia, Ukraine and Byelorussia.

FERRARI WORLD \$40 billion: Cost of building Ferrari World in Abu Dhabi. **Ferrari World** is a theme park dedicated to promoting Made-in-Italy goods throughout the Middle East. It covers 86,000 square meters (about seven soccer fields), has 200,000 square meters of ceiling space, measures 67 meters by 700 meters, with **a Ferrari logo the size of seven basketball courts**. In all, 12,370 tons of steel were used (the Tour Eiffel weighs 7,000). There's room for 7,000 visitors and the price of admission varies from €24 to €72. *Source International Herald Tribune*

A MILLIONAIRE A DAY 80: the number of millionaires created daily in China. Current estimates put the number of Chinese millionaires at 477,000. A millionaire is defined as someone whose net worth exceeds one million dollars (property not included). **The number has doubled in the last eight years.** *Source Asia Pacific Wealth Report - Capgemini e Merrill Lynch*

COST OF JUSTICE Italy has **6,109 fulltime judges** and 4,754 honorary ones, spending disproportionately on its judiciary. In fact, **Italy has court budgets that cost about 50 percent more than the European norm**. Selected European figures, in millions of euro: **Austria 258,790,000**; Belgium 89,713,000; **Bosnia 5,598,000**; Bulgaria 25,442,000; **Croatia 32,551,000**; Czech Republic 46,289,000; **Denmark 8,789,000**; Estonia 959,000; **Finland 6,299,000**; Georgia 2,352,000; **Greece 4,500,000**; Ireland 120,000; **Italy 287,572,000**; Lithuania 321,000; **Holland 4,978,000**; **Poland 145,365,000**; Romania 23,532,000; **Russia 120,455,000**; Serbia 65,337; **Slovakia 1,002,000**; Spain 2,944,000; **Switzerland 26,862,000**; Turkey 117,631,000; **Hungary 5,200,000.** *Source The European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice, 2010*

NO MORE MASS The drop in Catholic priests has coincided with a shrinking church attendance. **The most striking figures came from the Czech Republic**, where according to "The Economist" **60 percent of the population said it never went to Mass**. Here are country-by-country results on the number of people who stay away from church. France 53%; **Britain 52%**; Belgium 51%; **Holland 50%**; Spain 43%; **Israel 40%**; Sweden 39%; **Germany 36%**; Russia 34%; **Portugal 25%**; Turkey 22%; **Italy 15%**; Croatia 10%; **Poland 6%**; Greece 5%; **Cyprus 2.5%.** *Source The Economist*

DRINK UP France has surrendered to Italy when it comes to wine consumption. The production-consumption rate in Italy now stands at 47.5 liters per person compared to 45.5 in France. Vatican City, meanwhile, tops the leader board with 67 liters per person. Consumption-production per person in liters: **Italy 54**; France 47; Switzerland 42; **Austria 36**; Denmark 32; **Belgium 30**; Germany 26; **Australia 21**; Britain 20; **Holland 20.** *Source Wineinstitute.org*

COOL CAR American car enthusiast Harry Yeaggy has **paid £2.6 million, or €3.3 million, to buy James Bond's most famous car**, the 1964 Aston Martin DB5, at a London auction. The car boasts revolving license plates, an ejector seat and a bullet-proof shield and was featured in the films "Goldfinger" and "Thunderball." The car was previously owned by a U.S. **philanthropist Jerry Lee, who paid a "mere" \$12,000** when he purchased it in 1969. *Source The Guardian*

VAGON LIT €2,000: cost of a room at the Hotel Metropolitan in Nagano, Japan. But it's not your average room. This one has **a giant plastic electric train set** that measures 6 x 2 meters, **the largest in Japan**. There are four kinds of trains that run over a diorama of the city's most famous cities. *Source Tokyo Daily*

NO BARGAIN Supermarket bargains are hard to find in Italy, which boasts some of the highest large store prices in Europe. While a British family spends an average of £552 annually, the same goods purchased in Italy would run £786, or **42 percent more**. The German rate was pegged at £684, with £690 in France and £745 in Spain. *Source Which?*

Sumangali's Slave Girls

compiled by *Alessandro Brasile*

