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NONINO PRIZE

## **THE QUEENS OF SGNAPA (GRAPPA)**

by **Paola Jacobbi**

There was also Peter Higgs (3), the one of the «Higgs boson», also called «the God particle». Awarded with him the other half of the boson as well, Fabiola Gianotti (3), the Italian researcher at Cern who carried out the extraordinary scientific discovery. The unusual, funny and almost touching aspect is that the people attending the ceremony get near them to greet and have photos taken with them, as if they were rock stars. He, an eighty-three year old British gentleman, and she, a young lady of sober elegance, kindly returned such warmth. Things like this can happen only at the Nonino Prize, a creation of the family of Friulian grappa producers. A family with a high female rate: Benito and Giannola, the parents, (4, with Ermanno Olmi) have three daughters (2) and eight grandchildren. Among these grandchildren only one is a male. The jury of the Prize, on the contrary, is totally composed by great men of culture, from V.S. Naipaul (5) to Claudio Magris, and more than once their prize-winners have become Nobel Laureates, afterwards. The latest was the Chinese Mo Yan, Nobel Laureate for Literature 2012, awarded at the Nonino eight years ago. Well, the queens of grappa, or better, of *sgnapa*, bring luck. I wonder if they can bring it also to Higgs and our Fabiola Gianotti. Cheers.

(*Sgnapa* – grappa in Friulian language)