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Banco di Don Iulio first to receive highest rating

The Poor Standards rating agency has issued its latest quarterly ratings of banks throughout the Known Worlde, and for the first time has lifted an institution as being of the highest quality, rating it as AAA. Ratings of AA or AAA generally indicate a safe investment risk, with minimal auditing requirements.

The Banco di Don Iulio was previously rated A, with a negative outlook, after revelations regarding dubious dealings were initially published in *The Enquirer* last year. Following on from these revelations, the Crown of Lochac oversaw negotiations between the Inquisition and the Board of the Banco, in which matters were clarified and all investigations closed.

Investor confidence has been high in recent weeks in anticipation of the ratings upgrade, with record subscription numbers and early demand for share offerings exceeding expectations. Prominent banking industry commentator Ion Dulio, speaking from the Paris office of the Societe Investorial remarked that "I foresee great things in the future for the Banco, and will be attending the next meeting of the society personally to offer them my thanks for a good year."

- A. Wunch

Greek grapes ripe for harvest

The observant person will have noted that an ill wind has been blowing in the Greek Isles. On the back of wind however, comes trade, and trade brings profit. No-one has ever doubted that Greece is a stable long term investment, and this time is surely no different. In this columnist's opinion, the nay-sayers who are looking for alternative places to invest are giving away a golden opportunity... (continued on page 5)

- L. Demici replaces our regular columnist, who is away on travels.

Drawing a bead on the future

The ancient trading commodity of beads is undergoing resurgence in some market circles, according to the latest report from the Glass Lending Order of Bankers. At recent weekly auctions in Innilgard, wool, silk and timber have all been purchased by bead-wielding merchants... (continued on page 7)

Look out for:

- Stars - what are they really?
- This year's theatre reviews
- Menhirs - solid investments

...all covered in issues later this week.