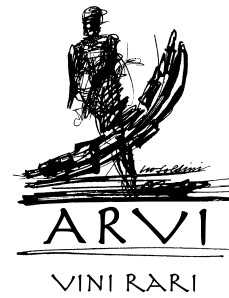


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Fabio Cattaneo, the youngest-ever winner of the Swiss Economic Award, looks to invest the prize money in young entrepreneurs

Melano, June 4 Fabio Cattaneo, the founder and CEO of ARVI, was named the best Swiss entrepreneur when the awards were presented in Interlaken on June 4. The expert jury of the Swiss Economic Forum picked out the young entrepreneur who trades in fine wines as the winner of the service category. "I'm absolutely delighted to win the most prestigious and important prize for entrepreneurs. Not least because the other finalists represent such successful companies".



Investing the winnings in young entrepreneurs

The freshly crowned winner is looking to invest the prize money in young companies: "I want to support new business ideas and innovative young entrepreneurs. We should give more responsibility to the next generation of business leaders and put more faith in them," explains Cattaneo.

Ticino-born Cattaneo is on course for success with ARVI, a firm that he set up in Melano in 2004. Building on a successful trade in fine wines, the company already has 22 employees. Indeed, Cattaneo aims to go on expanding: "I'm really pleased with the way the business has evolved. Winning the prize for the best young entrepreneur was not the main aim, although it does make it possible for us to exploit further opportunities to develop."

Alongside his duties as CEO of ARVI, Fabio Cattaneo is also president of ArTrust SA, a trader in fine art and antiques. Furthermore, he is a member of the board at

Moresi.com SA, an IT company that is currently investing in the development of data centre infrastructures for cloud computing.

Swiss Economic Award

First presented in 1998, the Swiss Economic Award has established itself as the most prestigious and important award for young companies in Switzerland. More than 1200 worthies from industry, politics, science and the media gather for the event every year. Among the keynote speakers this time round were Swiss president and head of the FDEA (Federal Department of Economic Affairs) Doris Leuthard, Nobel Prize winner Professor Paul Krugman, president of the Swiss National Bank Dr Philipp Hildebrand, and former British prime minister and Europe and Middle East expert Tony Blair.

The award worth a total of 75,000 Swiss francs recognises successful young companies based in Switzerland that were set up during the previous six years and have displayed outstanding economic performance. The expert jury headed by Carolina Müller-Möhl nominated the nine finalists in each of the categories after closely examining and reviewing the respective dossiers.