



F.I.C.B. NEWSLETTER

International Federation of Wine Brotherhoods

« *Sharing the reason and the love for wine* »

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*most of the subjects of the Newsletter are developed on our web site
<https://winebrotherhoods.org/en/news/>*

Message from the President

Dear members of the FICB's brotherhoods,

The FICB General Assembly was held on 7 February in Paris, attended by representatives from nearly forty brotherhoods. It approved the annual report and financial report, as well as the budget and action plan proposed for the coming year.

The year will feature two major events: a Wine Discovery Tour to Japan organized by the Knights of the Wine of Japan in May, which is proving very popular (90 external participants registered), and another in Alsace in October (registration now open on the FICB website).

The Federation of Wine and Gastronomic Brotherhoods and all our members in Switzerland are preparing for our next Congress, which will be held in May 2027.

In addition, the wine tournament, launched on an experimental basis, has been widely approved and will now be organized every year on the occasion of our General Assembly.

These prospects are exciting, but we must prepare for the future:

according to our statutes, a congress should be proposed in 2029 or 2030, and its organiser should be known by next year. Other proposals for international events (tasting challenges, discovery tours, etc.) are also expected. I therefore invite you to consider this.

In addition to these international events, our attractiveness also depends on offering local or regional events that we can support and invite you to promote. Dear members of the brotherhoods affiliated with the FICB, let us all move forward!

Marc LESK

General Assembly

The 2026 General Assembly of the F.I.C.B., held on 7 February in Paris, brought together more than 60 participants representing 38 member brotherhoods or federations of brotherhoods from some 20 countries and territories. The main decisions and information shared were:

- admission of the cruise ship *The World* as an 'associate member'
- awarding of the FICB honorary diploma to Laura Catena
- continuation of the FICB Bottle of the Year

tournament, organized for the first time in Paris

- update of the internal regulations
- maintenance of the membership fee at €150
- appointments: Gérard Maurice (Cocorico) treasurer, Marie Lise Carabeuf (Conseil des Echansons de France) deputy secretary general, Ugo Venturino (Knights of the Alba Truffle and Wine), vice president for Italy

Secretary general Vincent Carrière was appointed first vice president.

New member : The World

The World is a pleasure ship that sails the seas of the world and hosts a Priory of the Illustrious Order of the Knights of Medusa on board. It supports this brotherhood, which promotes wines from Mediterranean Provence. Its Grand Prior is Alan Freeman. In accordance with the statutes, The World has been accepted as an associate member. We welcome it aboard the FICB!

Diploma of Honor

Laura Catena, doctor and

winemaker, "has raised the global reputation of Argentine wine and advocates a balanced and informed approach to the link between wine, health and well-being ».



With her Catena Wine Institute, she won the Sustainable Development Award at Vinexposium's V d'Or in 2025. The Diploma of Honour is awarded to her on the recommendation of the Renaud Society.

The FICB bottle of the year tournament

The idea for this tournament, pitting the 'champion' wines of 14 brotherhoods against each other in pairs (dry white wines for this first edition), came from observing the wine tournaments held in Slovenia, as practised by Professor and international jury president Marin Berovič.



Fourteen brotherhoods responded to the call: Consulat OEVE Austria, Consulat OEVE Macedonia, Consulat OEVE Romania ; Académie du Cep (Switzerland) ; Cocorico -Confrérie de l'Asperge et de la Vigne Argenteuil-Sannois (France), Ordre

Illustre des Chevaliers de Méduse (France), Confrérie de Saint-Etienne (France) ; Consulat OEVE Slovenia, ZSRVV (Slovenia) ; Oregon Wine Brotherhood (U.S.A.), Knights of the Vine (U.S.A.), Renaud Society (USA/ Argentina); Knights of the Croatian Wine (Croatia), Federação Cofrarias Baquicas (Portugal), Knights of the truffle and wine of Alba (Italie).

The Knights of the Croatian Wine won and received the Jury Prize for their Pinot Sivi Gold, vintage 2023, from Matočec vineyard in Podravina (Slavoni, north-east of Croatia).



The 'delegates' prize' decided between the three other semi-finalists following a blind tasting open to wine lovers attending the General Assembly.



The Knights of the Vine from the USA won with a 2021 Chardonnay from the Carneros estate in Napa Valley.

Wine discovery tour in Alsace October 20



Registration is now open for this wine discovery tour,

organized by the Confrérie Saint Etienne d'Alsace, which will take place from 16 to 19 October 2026 in the Colmar region.

53rd F.I.C.B. International Congress in 2027 in Switzerland

The programme will enable visitors to discover the country's many wine-growing regions during 'a lively celebration of wines, brotherhoods and cultures'.



Based in Lausanne, participants will discover the terraces of Lavaux, the terroirs of Valais, Vaud, Neuchâtel and Geneva, the gastronomy of these regions and their major tourist attractions.

Media

FICB is in the media!

Our partner Wine in Moderation, whose mission is to be 'the wine industry's social responsibility programme, providing wine professionals with the information and tools they need to present wine responsibly, and encouraging consumers to enjoy wine and its culture in a healthy, positive and convivial manner'. reported on our wine tournament in its January newsletter.

Oregon Wine Press, a leading Oregon wine magazine, published a detailed article on the Oregon Wine Brotherhood in which the FICB is mentioned several times. Well done to Ken Hick and his brotherhood !