



Presentation of THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF WINE BROTHERHOODS (F.I.C.B.)

THE WINE BROTHERHOODS

- Wine brotherhoods (named after Bacchus, the Greek god of wine) are associations of wine professionals and enthusiasts whose aim is to promote the wines of their region or, more generally, of the country they represent. They support the traditions, nobility and quality of wine and its harmonious association with gastronomy, as well as its reasonable and sensible consumption;
- The oldest known brotherhood in France is the Antico Confrarie Sant-Andiu de la Galinieiro, founded in 1140 in Béziers (and current member of F.I.C.B.). Wine brotherhoods exist in many countries, mainly in those with a wine-growing tradition, but also increasingly in new wine-producing countries, as they contribute to the consolidation and promotion of terroirs and wine appreciation. More recently, wine brotherhoods have also been set up in non-producing countries to promote wine traditions and its reasoned and expert tasting;
- The brotherhoods organise a variety of convivial events around the theme of quality and expert wine tasting, which provide an opportunity to bring together their members and induct new ones. Their dignitaries often wear costumes inspired by the robes of Renaissance notables, different for each brotherhood. Their members wear characteristic insignia such as necklaces and medals.

THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF WINE BROTHERHOODS

The International Federation of Wine brotherhoods (in French : Fédération Internationale des Confréries Bachiques F.I.C.B.) was founded in Paris in 1964. It has the status of a not-for-profit association under the French law of 1 July 1901. Its object is to :

- **Publicize and promote the wine brotherhoods** which, at the level of a country, a region or a wine district, maintain the traditions, promote the nobility and the quality of wine and disseminate knowledge and good practice for its reasoned consumption and its harmonious combination with gastronomy;
- **Promote the wine producing regions of the world** and their products;

- **Develop expertise and skill in wine tasting;**
- **Facilitate friendly contacts and exchanges** of information and experience between its members.

F.I.C.B. has around a hundred member brotherhoods (directly or through national or regional federations) which are present in nearly 30 countries in Europe, Africa, America (North and South) and Asia. It offers :

- Its **website** (www.winebrotherhoods.org) provides information on the F.I.C.B. and its members and also includes sections on wine tasting, culture and traditions. The site includes a "calendar of events organised by the F.I.C.B. and those of its members" (brotherhood chapters, grape harvest festivals, etc., and is open to other participants). Subscription is available to receive regular information on F.I.C.B. news and activities;
- A "**multilingual lexicon**" (DE, EN, ES, FR, IT) containing translations of over 200 terms used in vine growing and wine tasting has been published. It can be accessed online on our web site;
- A "**practical guide to the creation and development of a wine brotherhood**", available in 5 languages (DE, EN, ES, FR, IT), either in paper form or in PDF format on our website;
- A "**practical guide to organising competitions for the blind recognition of grape varieties and appellations** ", which can be adapted by each brotherhood to its own particular context;
- A "**bilingual French-English Newsletter**" published twice a year;
- An "**International Congress**" is organised on a biennial basis by one or more F.I.C.B. member brotherhoods. These congresses provide an opportunity for exchange and discovery of the best products and wine-producing regions of the host country or region. 52 Congresses, organised the local wine brotherhoods in collaboration with F.I.C.B. , have been held to date, the latest in France (2014), California (2016), Northern Macedonia (2018) and Portugal (2023). The next one will take place in France (Provence-Côte d'Azur) in 2026;
- In addition, an "**International Wine Tasting Challenge**" is organised in alternance with the Congress. The first was held in Finland in June 2019. The second will take place in Hungary in May 2024;
- In addition, the "**F.I.C.B. sponsored wine discovery tours**" offer unique wine tours limited to 50 participants in a wine-growing region: two have taken place to date in Madeira (2022) and Slovenia (2023);
- The "**F.I.C.B. Diploma of Honor**" is allocated to former Officers of F.I.C.B. or to internationally recognized experts in wine production, tasting or associated sciences, committed to promote the traditions and the culture of wine (see our website for the recipients to date);
- F.I.C.B. has concluded a **partnership with "Wine in moderation"** and has published in collaboration a "**guide for the responsible tasting of wine** (see our web site and www.wineinmoderation.eu).

WHY BECOME A MEMBER OF F.I.C.B.?

For a wine brotherhood, becoming a member of F.I.C.B. means to be associated with a movement which takes its roots in tradition while sharing an attachment to the quality in wine growing as well as to the expertise and conviviality which goes with its reasonable consumption. F.I.C.B. gives openings for international outreach and contacts and allows keeping abreast of developments in the wine brotherhoods and their groupings around the world. Among the benefits which we bring to our members, the following deserve a special mention:

- Our bilingual website www.winebrotherhoods.org , which is a reference portal site on the quality, culture and traditions of wine. Our member brotherhoods have their own page on the site, giving them international visibility. It also contains all the information about our activities (including the minutes of our general meetings) and those of our members;
- Our « **International Charter of Wine Brotherhoods** » adopted in 2015, which aims at promoting and modernizing the concept of wine brotherhood ;
- The **priority given to our members** to take part in our international congresses and events. In addition to being unique events with a rich wine and cultural programme, these congresses give an opportunity to promote the wine regions and activities of our members;
- The **network of contacts** between our members, which is a source of inspiration, information and collaboration between our brotherhoods;
- Access for our members to an **address and a meeting room at the Paris Wine Museum**, which hosts our seat, to hold meetings (subject to reservation), as well as **special conditions** for access to the Wine Museum and its restaurant;
- The issuance of a « **membership certificate** » which may be used in the communication of the member brotherhood, who may also refer to its membership on its own website, with a link to F.I.C.B.'s site.

The 2023 active membership fee is 150€, with an additional admission fee of 50€ for the first year. The admission process is described on the website (see: section “**becoming a member**” under the F.I.C.B. heading, including for associate membership.)

F.I.C.B. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(up to date on 1 February 2023)

- **Président** : Alan BRYDEN (FR)
 - Treasurer : Alain HUET Conseil des Echansons de France (FR)
- Secretary General: Marc LESK COCORICO and Confrérie du Clos de Clamart (FR)
 - VP (Austria) : Hubert WEBER Ordo Equestis Vini Europae-Austria (AT)
 - VP (U.S.A.) Pasquale PINGITORE (Knights of the Vine of America)
 - VP (France North) Paul DALON Ordre des Chevaliers Brevins (FR)
 - VP (France South) Patrick PONS (Ordre Illustre des Chevaliers de Méduse FR)
- VP (Hungary) : David BRAZSIL Fédération Hongroise des Confréries Bachiques (HU)
- VP (Italy) : Bianca VETRINO Ordine dei Cavalieri del Tartuffo e dei Vini di Alba (IT)
- VP (Netherlands) : Anky COLARIS Nederlands Genootschap van wijnvrienden (NL)
 - VP (Portugal): Alvino JORGE DA SILVA E SOUZA Federacao das Confrarias Baquicas Do Portugal and Confraria do Vinho do Porto (PT)
 - VP (U.K.) Michael HILDESLEY United Kingdom Wine Guild (U.K.)
- VP (Slovenia): Janez DEZMAN Zdruzen Slovenskega Reda Vitezov Vina) (SI)
 - VP (Switzerland) : Jacques JEANNERAT Académie du Cep (CH)

F.I.C.B. postal address : 5, square Charles Dickens F- 75016 France



Document adopted by the General Assembly on 31 January 2015

THE INTERNATIONAL CHARTER OF WINE BROTHERHOODS of the F.I.C.B. *Sharing the reason and the love for wine*

The Wine Brotherhoods members of F.I.C.B. are not for profit associations, organized at the level of a terroir, region or country, who share the following objectives and values:

- ❖ Promote the traditions and techniques for the production of quality wines;
- ❖ Encourage and recognize individual competence and engagement in the art of wine tasting and in the promotion of its virtues and reasonable consumption;
- ❖ Develop conviviality around wine to nurture friendly relations between persons of diverse backgrounds;
- ❖ Promote the harmonious association of wine and food.

To implement these objectives and values, the Wine Brotherhoods members of F.I.C.B.:

- ❖ Organize events on the occasion of the key moments in vine growing and wine production to promote the traditions and the wines from their region, recognize individual expertise and engagement on the occasion of induction and promotion ceremonies in the Brotherhood and celebrate quality wines and their contribution to gastronomy;
- ❖ Develop cultural activities around wine tasting and traditions, such as tasting courses, choral societies, magazines, conferences on the history and technology of wine, contribution to wine museums and tourism, fostering innovation in vine growing and wine production;
- ❖ Contribute to the international outreach of the wines from their region, as well as contacts with other wine or food brotherhoods, namely by facilitating mutual visits, by sharing of experience and by encouraging participation in the F.I.C.B. international congresses and other events supported by the Federation.