



# F.I.C.B. NEWSLETTER

**International Federation of Wine Brotherhoods**

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

site: [www.winebrotherhoods.org](http://www.winebrotherhoods.org) contact : [info@winebrotherhoods.org](mailto:info@winebrotherhoods.org)



## N°20- February 2025

*(most of the subjects of the Newsletter are developed on our web site)*

### Message from the President

This is my last message as President of our federation. After more than 10 years in office, I wish to hand over the reins. I leave F.I.C.B. in good shape, with over 60% more members, 9 new countries represented, around €40,000 in reserves with no increase in dues for over 10 years, several basic publications (lexicon, guides, etc.), a prestigious list of Diplomas of Honour, a modern website and bilingual operations, a wide range of events and a great programme to come. I wish every success to our members and to the new team that will take over on 31 March 2025

**Alan BRYDEN**

### General Assembly 2025

Our general assembly meeting in Paris on 8 February was attended by a record number of participants (around 70 representatives of 37 brotherhoods or federations from 14 different countries). Important decisions were taken concerning our future events and our governance. The work programme adopted focuses on our events and on promoting the events and other activities of our members, for which we encourage the sharing of experience.



At the meeting of the Board of administration following the AGM, the following nominarians were approved:

. **President: Marc LESK** to replace Alan BRYDEN with effect from 31 March 2025

. **Vice-Chairman for the United Kingdom: Julia TRUSTRAM-EVE** (U.K. Wine Guild) to replace Michael HILDESLEY

. **Vice-President for France-North: Dominique PAIROCHON** (Fins Gousiers d'Anjou) to replace Paul Dalon (Chevaliers Bretevis).

. **Secretary General Vincent CARRIERE** (Echansons de France): replacing Mac LESK.

The full composition of the Board of administration at 31 March 2025 is available as an appendix to the minutes of the 2025 AGM on the F.I.C.B. website.

. 3 Diplomas of Honour : Gregory JONES, M. HILDESLEY et Paul DALON.

### The F.I.C.B. teams of 31 March 2025



From right to left : M. Lesk ; A.Huet, A. Bryden et V.Carrière

### Japan wine discovery tour May 2026

The third F.I.C.B. sponsored Wine Discovery Tour will take place in Japan from 18 to 22 May 2026, with an optional extension from 22 to 25 May. It is being organised by the Knights of the Vine of Japan, with an exceptional programme that will not only enable participants to visit the highlights of Tokyo and the surrounding area, such as the Imperial Palace, but also to discover Japanese viticulture.

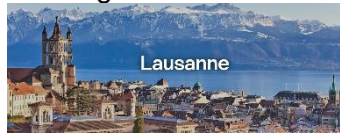
Registration is due to open at the beginning of March 2025. A link to the registration website will be published on the F.I.C.B. website.



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

After the cancellation of the Congress in

Provence-Côte d'Azur, the invitation from the Fédération Suisse des Confrérie Bachiques et Gastronomiques to organise our 53rd Congress was enthusiastically accepted at our General Assembly. It will take place in the Lausanne region and surrounding cantons in May 2027. The detailed programme will be presented at the 2026 General Assembly meeting



### Promoting the activities of the brotherhoods and federations members of F.I.C.B.

At the General assembly,, emphasis was also placed on the support that F.I.C.B. can provide in promoting the activities of our members

. At the request of the F.I.C.B. member organising the event, it is possible to include announcements of their events open to international participants in the 'calendar of events' on the F.I.C.B. website (e.g. COCORICO Gathering of brotherhoods at Notre-Dame de Paris 13-14 September 2025, the O.E.V.E. Romania chivalric festival).

. Publication of articles on the events and activities of the brotherhoods on the F.I.C.B. website (12 in 2024)

. Encourage diversification of activities: **wine tournaments** (e.g. Slovenia, Croatia), **blind**

**grape variety recognition competitions** (e.g. Académie du Cep CH), **choirs** (e.g. Echantons de France, Ordre de la Channe), **scholarships and charitable activities** (e.g. Renaud Society and KoV America), **'Maitre de Vin' diplomas** (e.g. Oregon W.B.), **auctions** (e.g. Chevaliers d'Alba)..

### Launch of the development 'F.I.C.B. Guide on organising wine tournaments'

Several brotherhoods belonging to the F.I.C.B. organise 'wine tournaments' in various but similar forms.

The principle is simple: 8 to 10 wines are selected, generally around a common grape variety or blend. They are rated by a professional jury according to a recognised benchmark in front of an audience that tastes, rates and then ranks the wines at the same time as the jury. At the end of the tournament, the jury declares the winner and each participant can compare his or her judgement with that of the jury. We have reported on the wine tournaments organised in Croatia and Slovenia on our website.

As part of the 2025 work programme, an 'F.I.C.B. guide to organising wine tournaments' will be prepared by a working group chaired by Marin BEROVIC (Slovenia), for presentation in 2026. In the long term, when many wine brotherhoods organise such tournaments, we could imagine a tournament between the winning wines!