



F.I.C.B. NEWSLETTER

International Federation of Wine Brotherhoods

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

site: www.winebrotherhoods.org contact: info@winebrotherhoods.org



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

Message from the President

Dear members of the FICB's brotherhoods, I would like to take this opportunity to look back at the work we have been carrying out since I took up my position on 31 March.

Several projects have been finalised or launched, in line with the action plan defined at the GA in February 2025:

The wine discovery tour to Japan in May 2026: the programme has been posted online and is proving very popular; there is still time to register.

A wine discovery tour to Alsace in October 2026, proposed by Jacques Cattin and the Confrérie de St Etienne: it has been approved by the Board, we are announcing it in this newsletter, and registration should open in early December.

The FICB Bottle of the Year Tournament: Each brotherhood may enter one 'champion' to compete in a knockout tournament, with the winner receiving the FICB Bottle of the Year award. It will be held at the Paris Wine Museum on the eve of the GA.

The organisation of the 2027 FICB congress has been launched by the Swiss Federation of Wine and Gastronomy Brotherhoods, with its 17 participating brotherhoods.

The wine discovery tour to Piedmont proved a resounding success with all participants, who enjoyed the wines, gastronomy and culture on offer, and the chapter at Château Cavour of the Order of the Knights of the Truffle and the Wines of Alba was an unforgettable experience.

These major events should not obscure the

fact that smaller events can also attract international interest, as was the case with the event held in September at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, organised by the "Coordination des Confréries d'Ile de France", which attracted fellow members of foreign brotherhoods (USA, Switzerland, etc.). The FICB will always support such initiatives.

Two new diplomas of honor were awarded to Bob Lindo and Justin Goldwin, on the recommendation of the Wine Guild of the UK and the Oregon Wine Brotherhood respectively.

Our next General Assembly will be held on February 7th in Paris, and will feature our brand new wine tournament. You are invited to come and represent your brotherhoods!

I send you all my wine loving salutations.

Marc LESK

**Japan wine discovery
tour
May 2026**



This trip is filling up fast, with participants mainly from North America, but also from Europe and Japan. Based at the start in Tokyo, it will take us to discover the vineyards of Tayanashi and Nagano.

There are still a few places available, and registration is open until 31st October. There's no time to spare!

**Wine discovery tour in
Alsace
October 2026**

A wine discovery tour to Alsace will be proposed to FICB members in October 2026. Based in Colmar, participants will travel along the wine route, visit vineyards in Riquewihr and Kaysersberg, enjoy Alsatian specialities and take part in a chapter of the Confrérie de Saint Etienne at its château in Kienstheim. Registration will open on 1 December on our website.

**The FICB bottle of the
year tournament**

Taking advantage of the large attendance at our Annual General Meeting, a wine competition will be organised for the occasion. The candidates, nominated by their respective brotherhoods, will compete in a duel, and will be judged by a jury of seven experienced

members chaired by Professor Marin Berovic, an international wine judge. The winner will receive the FICB Bottle of the Year award. The finalists and semi-finalists will be offered for tasting to participants at the General Meeting, and a 'delegates' prize' will also be awarded. All participants will receive a participation prize and their wines will be available for tasting by the audience. This year, the wines in competition will be dry whites. An article presenting the competition, along with the rules and registration details, will be published shortly on the FICB website.

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



The Swiss Federation of Wine and Gastronomy Brotherhoods, with its 17 participating brotherhoods, has set up an organising committee to prepare for this major event. A preliminary programme has been drawn up. It includes visits to the main wine-growing regions of Western Switzerland to discover their wines and culinary specialities, as well as conferences on Swiss vineyards and wines, musical entertainment, etc. It will be presented at our next General Assembly in Paris in February.

**Two new diplomas of
honor**

« Bob Lindo founded Camel Valley vineyard in Cornwall (England) over 40 years ago, now producing red, white and rosé sparkling and still wines. Bob has been a trailblazer for UK wine, raising its global profile through award-winning winemaking, industry leadership, championing sustainability and tireless promotion both in the UK and overseas. He secured the first Royal Warrant for an English producer and has inspired a new generation of outstanding growers and winemakers. »

(Proposed by the Wine Guild of the United Kingdom)

Justin Goldwin

Active internationally as a wine educator and wine consultant, he began Justin Wines in 1981 in the Central California area. His Isosceles – a red blend – has been ranked for many years as one of the top wines in the World. In 1991 he was awarded the best blended red wine and the Pichon Lalonde trophy at the international Wine Competition in London. For his many accomplishments he was inducted into La Commanderie du Bontemps Medoc in 2001. » (Proposed by the Oregon Wine Brotherhood)