

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

Following the huge success of the Wine Discovery Tour in Japan, which attracted 80 participants from around the world for a week last May, and the shorter tour in Alsace in October (32 participants), it is time to start thinking about upcoming events, starting with the FICB Congress to be organised next May by the Swiss wine brotherhoods. Registration is currently open, so now is the time to make arrangements to take part in this event with its exceptional programme.

Furthermore, the Wine Tournament held last February to coincide with the Annual General Assembly will be organised again next February, as decided by our Annual General Assembly. There were 14 participants at the first event – how many will wish to take part in the next one, where red wines will take centre stage?

Beyond these scheduled events, we must already start thinking about those to come: we hope to organise a wine-tasting challenge in 2028, and of course a Congress in 2029 or 2030. We also wish to promote

smaller-scale initiatives, which are no less valuable, such as visits between brotherhoods. Is it not one of our missions to encourage the friendly exchange

of information and experience amongst our members?

I am counting on you all to put forward proposals and make these upcoming events a great success.

Marc Lesk
Président de la FICB



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

Organised by all the Swiss brotherhoods under the auspices of the Federation of Swiss Wine and Gastronomy Brotherhoods,

the stay will be based in Lausanne and will offer the chance to discover the diversity of the country's terroirs and wines: Lavaux, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Lake Geneva, the Valais, and, during the extension, excursions to Geneva, Neuchâtel, Vully... Don't delay in registering to secure the best rates!



Wine discovery tour in Japan

80 participants, mainly from Europe and the United States; a dozen wine brotherhoods represented; and a strong turnout from the Knights of the Vine of Japan, who always accompany visitors in large numbers. The programme, which took us to Yamanashi and Nagano regions, gave participants the opportunity to discover the history of wine in Japan, visit numerous vineyards, gain an understanding of the specific characteristics of

viticulture in Japan, and, of course, taste a wide range of wines; as well as to appreciate Japanese cuisine and culture! Around thirty participants were inducted into the Knights of the Vine of Japan. They all extend their thanks to Grand Master Shoji KINOSHITA and his colleagues.

Wine Discovery Tour in Alsace

Around thirty participants from Portugal, France, Romania, Austria, the United Kingdom and the United States responded to the invitation from Jacques Cattin, Grand Master of the Confrérie de Saint Etienne d'Alsace.

They were delighted by the cuisine, the regional specialities, all those beautiful French villages with their vineyards, and of course the wide variety of wines, as well as the opportunities to meet the winegrowers and fellow participants.

Around ten participants were inducted into the Confrérie de Saint-Etienne d'Alsace.

Exchanges between brotherhoods

We encourage individual initiatives such as those of the wine societies in Hong Kong (The Hong Kong Wine Society) and Macau (Confraria dos Enofilos de Macau), which established contact with the Madeira oenogastronomic brotherhood, which welcomed them during a group visit to the island. Or take the example of Sandra, from the Ordine dei cavalieri del tartufo e dei vini di Alba, who, keen to discover Oregon's vineyards and wines, got in touch with Ken Hick of the Oregon Wine Brotherhood, where she was warmly welcomed.

This is what gives true meaning to the existence of our federation, one of whose missions is to facilitate

friendly exchanges between brotherhoods.

Websites

Numerous articles showcasing the life of our brotherhoods and the work of the FICB are published on our website:

winebrotherhoods.org

An Instagram page

([instagram.com/fede_ficb](https://www.instagram.com/fede_ficb)) has just been set up. It provides easy access to each of our brotherhoods. Please send us any information you would like to see featured there, and inform your members.

Wine in Moderation Day



We welcome the initiative launched by our partner, Wine in Moderation, which is celebrating its Day of the Year on 8 November under the slogan: "The greatest wine? The one that you'll remember"

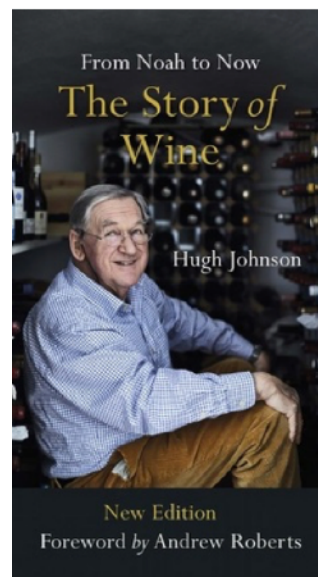
Diploma of Honour

Following a proposal from the Wine Guild of the United Kingdom, the Board of Administration has decided to award the FICB Diploma of Honour to Hugh Eric Allan Johnson OBE, for

'A lifetime's literary service to wine in general, and a fifty-year record of encouragement, advocacy and, more recently, investment in English wine in particular'

It will be presented to him at a gala dinner on 27 November in London, where British wines will be served,

and for which registration is still open.



FICB General Assembly

As decided at the previous General Assembly, the next Annual General Assembly will be held on Saturday 6 February in Paris.

The notice of meeting will be sent to members in early November.

FICB Bottle of the Year Tournament

The jury will meet the day before the GA to select the



champion and announce the Jury Prize; the Delegates' Prize will be awarded the following day, following a blind tasting, to the semi-finalist voted most favorite by the public.

The call for participants for the Jury and the Tournament will be sent to members in November.