

VINEA PRESS RELEASE – April 24th 2019

Sierre, heartland of the Mondial du Merlot competition

Organised by VINEA Association, the 12th edition of the Mondial du Merlot et Assemblages competition will bring together some 460 wines from 18 countries. The tasting will take place in Sierre from April 26th–28th with 21 international wine-specialist judges, while the awards ceremony will be held in Zurich on May 21st followed by the Festival of Award-Winning Merlots (a unique opportunity to taste the winning wines).

Prestigious judges and a president from the Bordeaux region

For its 12th edition the Mondial du Merlot et Assemblages has a president from the Bordeaux region – an iconic area for Merlot. Philippe Nunes (technical director at Château la Fleur de Boüard, in the Lalande Pomerol appellation) will honour us with his presence at both the tasting sessions and the awards ceremony in Zurich. Joining us in Sierre as a judge will be Regina Vanderlinde (Brazil), the new president of the OIV (Organisation Internationale de la Vigne et du Vin - International Organisation of Vine and Wine), along with Cyril Payon, president of the Union des Œnologues de France (French Union of Oenologists).

An increase in the number of entries

With 460 wines from 18 countries taking part in this year's competition, there has been a 5.5% increase in entries compared to 2018. The majority come from Switzerland, Italy and France, but the organisers are delighted to welcome wines from the Czech Republic and Kazakhstan, taking part in the competition for the very first time.

Another cause for celebration is the increased number of samples submitted for the Gran Maestro category (a 50% rise compared to 2018). This is a special category in which producers enter the wine of their choice over three consecutive vintages. Tasted by a panel of experts, this category allows tasters to really assess the quality of the terroir and the winemaker's skill in expressing it, year after year.

Quality guaranteed by no less than three patrons

The Mondial du Merlot et Assemblages meets the strict criteria of the OIV (Organisation Internationale de la Vigne et du Vin, Vinofed (the World Federation of international wine and spirits competitions), and the Union Suisse des Œnologues (USOe – Swiss Union of Oenologists). Experts from each of these three organisations will attend the tasting sessions to ensure that their respective rules are followed.

The awards ceremony will be held at Zurich's Widder Hotel on Tuesday May 21st, followed by the Festival of Award-Winning Merlots, when winning producers will pour their medal-winning wines.

For further information: <https://www.mondial-du-merlot.com/>

Contact:

VINEA Association
Raphaël Gross, director
info@vinea.ch
+ 41 (0)27 456 31 44

Daniele Maffei
Competition director
daniele.maffei@ti.ch
+ 41 (0) 76 571 86 68