



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

THE WINEBROTHERHOODS

- Wine brotherhoods are **associations of professionals and connoisseurs of wine** which promote the wines from their region or, more generally, of the country they represent. They support the nobility and the quality of wine and its harmonious association to gastronomy, as well as its reasoned and reasonable consumption.
- The most ancient wine brotherhood known in France is "Antico Confrarie Sant-Andieu de la Galineiro" founded in 1140 in Béziers. Today there exist **several hundred wine brotherhoods** around the world, mainly in regions with a wine growing and making tradition, but also increasingly in new producing countries, as they contribute to the consolidation and promotion of wine production and tasting.
- **The Brotherhoods organize various convivial events** around the quality and the reasoned tasting of wine, which are occasions to gather their members and induct new ones. Their dignitaries often wear attire inspired by the robes of notables from the Middle ages or the Renaissance era, differing from one brotherhood to the other. Their members wear characteristic badges such as necklaces or 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 member brotherhoods in some 20 countries in Europe, America and Asia. Its web site (www.winebrotherhoods.org) was revamped in 2013. It provides information about its members and is being gradually scaled up to become a portal on news, traditions and quality in the area of wine, with sections such as « books on wine », « wine and poetry », « wine and cinema » or « wine museums ».

A *multi lingual lexicon* (DE, EN, ES, FR, IT) provides the translation of some 200 terms used in wine growing and tasting. It is available on line on the F.I.C.B. web site.

A *bilingual FR-EN newsletter* is published twice per year.

A “*practical guide on the creation and development of a wine brotherhood*” has been published in 2017 and is available in 4 languages (DE, EN, ES, FR), in paper format or in PDF format from the website.

An *international congress* is organized on a biennial basis by one or several wine brotherhoods. These prestigious events give the opportunity for exchanges and discovery of the best wine production from the host region or country. The programme combines academic sessions, wine tasting and private visits to the wine estates and cultural events. The 2016 Congress has taken place in the Napa and Sonoma Valleys in California. The 2018 Congress will take place in Macedonia from 31 May to 4 June 2018, with an extension in the Lake Ohrid region on 4 and 5 June..

In 2015, the concept of the « *F.I.C.B. Diploma of Honor*» was adopted. This diploma distinguishes the international recognition of the recipients in relation to wine expertise, as well as their engagement to promote the traditions and the culture of wine.

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 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 web ring to our members, the following deserve special attention::

- Our bilingual website www.winebrotherhoods.org which has been recently revamped and which is being developed to become a reference portal on quality, culture and traditions of wine. Our member brotherhoods benefit from an individual page on the site, thus increasing their international exposure. Information on our activities and developments is also available, such as the full report on the outcome of our general assembly 2017;
- The « *International Charter of Wine Brotherhoods* » adopted at our 2015 GA, which aims at promoting and modernizing the concept of wine brotherhood ;
- The *priority given to our members* to take part in our international congresses. 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 creation of a category of « *F.I.C.B. associate member* », which allows the organizations and companies who support our brotherhoods to benefit from our network, i.a. through our website ;
- 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 2017 active membership fee is 150€, with an admission fee of 50€ for the first year. The admission process is described on the website (section “becoming a member” under the F.I.C.B. heading, including for associate membership.

F.I.C.B. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(at 1 February 2017- last election date in brackets)

- **Président** : Alan BRYDEN (France) (2016)
- Treasurer : Alain HUET (France) (Conseil des Echansons de France) (2015)
- VP (Austria) : Hubert WEBER (OEVE Austria) (2015)
- VP (Spain) Jose-Maria MARTI (Confraria del Cava San Sadurni ES) (2015)
- VP (U.S.A.) Pasquale PINGITORE (Knights of the Vine of America) (2016)
- VP (France North) Paul DALON (Ordre des Chevaliers Bretvins FR) (2015)
- VP (France South) Paul COULON (Échansonnerie des Papes FR) (2016)
- VP (Hungary) : to be nominated (Fédération Hongroise des Confréries Bachiques HU) (2016)
- VP (Italy) : Bianca VETRINO Ordine dei Cavalieri del Tartuffo e dei Vini di Alba (2017)
- VP (Netherlands) : Anky COLARIS Nederlands Genootschap van wijnvrienden (2015)
- VP (Portugal): Alvino JORGE DA SILVA E SOUZA (Federacao das Confrarias Baquicas Do Portugal) (2016)
- VP (U.K.) Michael HILDESLEY (U.K. Wine Guild) (2015)
- VP (Slovenia) : Tomislav KOVACIC (O.E.V.E-Slovénie) (2015)
- VP (Slovenia): Janez DEZMAN (Zdruzen Slovenskega Reda Vitezov Vina) (2015)
- VP (Switzerland) : Michel ROSSI (Noble Confrérie des Olifants du Bas-Lac en Pays de Neuchâtel) (2015)

F.I.C.B. Address : 5, square Charles Dickens 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.