



Press Release

Sierre, 18 June 2026

Mondial du Merlot & Assemblages 2026 : Meganoir 2023 reigns supreme as Switzerland Dominates the Competition

The 19th edition of the Mondial du Merlot & Assemblages took place in Sierre on 19 and 20 May, bringing together 417 wines. Judged by an international panel of tasters from 12 countries, the competing wines once again impressed with their outstanding quality. A total of 116 medals were awarded, including 2 Grand Gold medals, 73 Gold medals and 41 Silver medals.

Held under the joint patronage of the International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV), VINO FED (World Federation of Major Wine and Spirits Competitions) and the Swiss Union of Oenologists (USOE), the competition once again confirmed its status of the world's only international wine competition entirely dedicated to wines from the Merlot family.

The Canton of Vaud takes Centre Stage with the Competition's Top Wine

It was the Meganoir 2023, produced by Les Trois Terres in Morges (VD), that achieved the highest score in the competition. One of only two wines to receive a Great Gold Medal, Meganoir 2023 also earned the Best Blend Award and the prestigious VINO FED Award for Best Red Wine.

With its great complexity, intense notes of blackcurrant and black cherries, elegant minerality and long-lasting aroma, the wine captivated the international jury and took the top spot in the 2026 rankings.

Ticino Confirms its Excellence

Ticino has once again distinguished itself among the competition's top performers. Chiar di Luna 2025, from Delea Angelo SA in Losone, has been awarded the prize for Best Merlot Rosé or White wine. The prize for Best Older Vintage goes to Arca Rubra 2019 from Tenuta Arca Rubra in Sorengo, while Millevolti Rosso Riserva 2021 from Fumagalli SA in Balerna was recognized with the best Organic Wine Award.

Valais was equally well represented, with the title of Best Swiss Pure Merlot awarded to the 'Fernand Cina' 2024 Merlot from Fernand Cina SA in Salquenen. The wine was praised for its aromatic richness, balance and the finesse of its tannins.

An edition marked by the diversity and quality of the Merlots

The wines presented at this 19th edition showcased the full spectrum of Merlot's potential, whether vinified as a single varietal or crafted as part of a blend. The jury particularly highlighted the balance, precision and personality of the wines presented.

The results once again demonstrate that many of the competition's medal-winning wines can confidently stand alongside the finest Merlots produced anywhere in the world.

- 2 Grand Gold medals (93 points/100 and above)
- 73 Gold medals (89 to 92.9 points/100)
- 41 Silver medals (88 to 88.9 points out of 100)

France Wins the Best Foreign Merlot Award

The award for Best Foreign Pure Merlot goes to France for Cap Sud Merlot 2025, produced by SAS Alma Cersius in the Coteaux de Béziers. This distinction further underscores the international appeal of the Merlot grape variety and its ability to produce wines of exceptional quality across diverse terroirs.

The Gran Maestro du Merlot Honors Consistency

The prestigious 2026 Gran Maestro du Merlot Award, which recognizes the producer achieving the best results across three consecutive vintages, was won by Cave François et Mathieu Constantin in Ayent (VS) for its Merlot Barrique 2023, 2022 and 2021.

Second place went to Weingut Seewer in Susten and third to Adrian & Diego Mathier Nouveau Salquenen AG in Salquenen, once again confirming the expertise, consistency and dedication to quality demonstrated by Valais producers.

A Celebration of Award-Winning Merlots in Zurich

The awards ceremony took place in Zurich and was followed by the Festival of Award-Winning Merlots and VINEA On Tour, two events open to both wine professionals and the general public.

Wine enthusiasts had the opportunity to discover and taste the award-winning wines from this 19th edition, while meeting the producers behind them.

The Full List of Competition Winners is available on the website www.mondial-du-merlot.com.

Contact and further information :

Romain Favre, Oenologist / Technical Manager at VINEA
+ 41 (0)79 735 03 95
romain.favre@vinea.ch

Andrea Conconi, Chair of the JURY, +41(0)79 198 46 25

Charlotte Loretan, Director of VINEA, +41(0)79 632 31 24

VINEA is a multidisciplinary association specialising in wine competitions – the Swiss Wine Grand Prix, the World Pinot Competition, the World Merlot Competition and the World Blends Competition – as well as in organising events to promote local wines, such as VINEA Le Salon and VINEA on Tour, and in providing training through its VINEA Academy. For more information : www.vinea.ch