



Communiqué de presse

Zurich-Sierre, den 1. Juni 2023

Mondial du Merlot et Assemblages 2023

A verdict has been declared.

The list of prize winners reflects the magic of this 16th edition of the *Mondial du Merlot & Assemblages*. The Ticino region demonstrates, once again, the potential of its prized grape variety. The canton has won the majority of the special prizes awarded by this competition, which is the only international competition devoted entirely to the Merlot family.

The award ceremony took place in Zurich this year in front of an audience of wine enthusiasts, who had the opportunity to meet the twenty or so producers present. The colorful ceremony took place on the 1st of June at the Zunfthaus zur Meisen in Zurich. VINEA, the official organizer of the Mondial du Merlot & Assemblages (MdM), was happy to be able to choose Paolo Basso as the master of ceremonies. As a Tessinois and one of the “Meilleur Sommeliers du Monde” was the perfect choice for this role.

Some 430 wines were represented by 175 producers from 14 different countries in this competition held in the township of Sierre. Some of the best Merlots from across the world, including France, Italy, Spain, Germany and Brazil, were tasted. There is a continued interest and growing credibility in this competition as it is under the supervision of the OIV (Organisation Internationale de la Vigne et du Vin), the USOE (Union Suisse des Oenologues) and the VINO FED (Federation Internationale des Grands Concours de Vins et Spiritueux), all three of which are closely tied to VINEA.

The award ceremony was composed of a panel of international judges, who were pleased to highlight the exceptional quality of the competing wines that offered aromatic complexity and structure. The highest “Grand Gold” medal was awarded to La Cantina Ra Canva (Biasca), and thereafter 66 Gold medals and 58 Silver medals were given. These wines of notable distinction were awarded to 21 wineries from Tessin, 10 wineries from the Valais, 3 wineries from the Vaud and 3 wineries from Neuchatel. Wineries from Geneva and Zurich rounded out the list. Internationally, 4 medals from Italy, 2 from France and 1 from Brazil, Uruguay, Slovenia, the Czech Republic were awarded.

The region of Ticino distinguished itself by winning six of the nine categories, one of which was the “Best wine of the Competition and the Best Merlot from Switzerland for the 2020 “Icaro Riserva” from La Cantina Ra Canva, in Biasca Ticino. The award for the best international Merlot was given to an Italian winery, while the region of the Valais obtained the titles for; the best old vintage Merlot (Les Titans 2017 from Provins), the best blend (Chai du Baron, Bramois) and the prize for the best Organic Merlot (Cave de la Colombe, Erde). A special mention was given to the Cave Reva di Urs Hauser in the Canton of Ticino who won the prize in the first two places of the category of “Gran Maestro” (the award for the best wines from three consecutive vintages).

And, finally, the prize Vinofed was once again awarded to Tamborini Carlo SA, from Lamone Ticino. We would also like to note that the President of VINEA, Jonas Ettlin excuses the absence of the VINEA Director, Fabienne Bruttin, who was participating in the General Assembly meeting in Slovakia, held at the same time as the MdM. Just after the medals award ceremony, the Festival of Merlots was a great occasion for oenophiles to discover the nuances and diversity of this notable grape from our prized vineyard land. The complete list of awards given from this competition can be found at: www.mondial-du-merlot.com

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