



Press release

Sierre, Switzerland – 31 August 2017

20th Mondial des Pinots: the big winner in 2017 is from Graubünden!

The international scope of the competition is once again apparent, with nearly 1,300 wines from 25 countries registered. Six Great Gold medals, a record, were awarded today within the grounds of the splendid Château Mercier in Sierre. They were given to four Swiss wines, a New Zealand wine and one from Germany. An indication of the clear success of Swiss Pinot Noir wines: they carried away more than two-thirds of the gold medals.

For the first time, lovers of this grape variety - that is so good at revealing the terroir where it is grown and is so widely cultivated around the world – will have the chance to taste these newly named award-winning wines during the first Festival of Pinot Wines. The event takes place Thursday evening 31 August, as part of the opening ceremonies for the Vinea Swiss Wine Fair. It follows the awards ceremony and is under the direction of Claude Frôté, starred Saint-Blaise chef, the public face of the Semaine du Goût 2017. He is also a Pinot Noir producer, and a great fan of this wine.

The Mondial des Pinots registered 1,298 wines for its 20th year; the competition is a member of VINO FED, is organized by VINEA and is run under the patronage of the OIV, the UIOE and the USO. The registrations for 2017 mirrored those of previous years, confirming both the appeal and the credibility of the competition. The event operates entirely digitally, with the 60-plus members of the jury noting the wines on tablet devices, creating a top-level comfortable environment for the tastings.

A grape variety that reveals its terroir

This anniversary edition brought together wines from 461 producers in 25 countries, an event clearly marked by its international aspect, which was also reflected in the profiles of the judges. Swiss Pinot wines were in the majority, but the samples assessed came from all corners of the globe, in particular from Germany, France, Italy, Slovakia, Chile, New Zealand, and South Africa. Pinot Noir, cultivated worldwide, is remarkable most of all for its ability to express fully its terroir. The Mondial des Pinots provides an exceptional opportunity to compare these different expressions of the grape.

A unique competition which yet again seduced the judges, a panel that included eminent international specialists –

- such as Pedro Ballesteros, Spanish Master of Wine who took part in the Mondial des Pinots for the first time, and who was impressed by the competition, he says. "It's the only competition devoted solely to the Pinot wines of the world. We are able to get a precise idea of the level of quality of the wines made from this grape, on an international scale. All of the ingredients you

need for a quality competition are here: the OIV procedure, competent judges and the quality of the wines. I was particularly taken with the Gran Maestro category over which I presided.”

The awards

The highest distinction, the Great Gold medal, was for the first time awarded to 6 wines, 4 of them from Switzerland (2 from Zurich, 1 from Graubünden, 1 from Valais), 1 from New Zealand and 1 from Germany (details below).

The Swiss Pinot producers shone again, taking more than two-thirds of the gold medals, with 95 Swiss wines winning awards in total: 37 for Valais, 12 for Vaud, 8 for Neuchatel, with 7 going to Aargau and 6 to Graubünden. German-speaking Switzerland this year notched up a score of 40 gold medals.

Internationally, German Pinot wines took 12 medals while Canada, France and the Slovakian Republic each had 3.

Special prizes: Graubünden takes the lead for awards

The Mondial des Pinots traditionally awards 10 special prizes (see the list below), including the Gran Maestro du Pinot Noir, given to the wine with the best score for three consecutive vintages. This year a Graubünden producer, Georg Schlegel from Weingut zur Alten Posten, won the prize. The best wine of the competition was also from Graubünden: from Weinhaus Cottinelli in Malans, which was also named Switzerland’s best Pinot Noir.

New in 2017: the Festival of Pinot Wines, with the goal of bringing together the winning wineries and consumers

This first-ever showcase for the award-winning wines, in Sierre, will let producers present their products to lovers of Pinot wines, as an *avant-première* to the VINEA Swiss Wine Fair. The public will be able to sample wines from some 30 producers from throughout Switzerland; a high point will be the chance to meet these wine producers who will have just received their awards. The Festival of award-winning Pinot wines takes place today from 16:00-19:00 in the gardens of the l’Hôtel de Ville de Sierre. Entry price per person is CHF20.

During the VINEA Swiss wine fair the stand will invite visitors to taste a selection of Pinot Noir, Pinot Blanc, Pinot Gris and rosé wines as well as sparkling ones, all of them recently awarded prizes. A workshop, “Tour du Monde des Pinots primés”, presented by two well-known oenologists, will round out the efforts to spotlight this grape, Saturday 2 September 2017 at 14:00 – as with the rest, in the context of the VINEA Swiss Wine Fair. Registration at billetterie.salonvinea.ch

The complete list of winners from the competition is available online [site www.mondial-des-pinots.com](http://www.mondial-des-pinots.com).

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SPECIAL AWARDS

Best wine of the competition prize, offered by the VINEA Association

Halde Chur 2015 AOC Graubünden Weinhaus Cottinelli Malans, Graubünden, Switzerland

Syngenta Pinot Noir Gran Maestro prize, offered by Syngenta AG

Pinot Noir Saliser Grande Sélection AOC Graubünden 2005-2006-2007

Weingut Zur Alten Post, Georg Schlegel, Jenins, Graubünden, Switzerland

Best Swiss Pinot Noir prize, offered by Felco SA

Halde Chur 2015 AOC Graubünden Weinhaus Cottinelli Malans, Graubünden, Switzerland

Sparkling wine prize, offered by the Swiss Oenologists Union

Bel Héritage 2012, Vin de Pays Suisse, Mauler SA, Neuchatel, Switzerland

Rosé wine prize, offered by Serex Constructions Plastiques

Pinot Noir Blanc de Noir Eiswein 2016, Pfalz, Weingut Werner Anselmann, Edesheim Germany

Pinot Gris Prize

Tschäpperli Pinot Gris Strowein 2016, AOC Basel-Landschaft, Tschäpperliweine GmbH, Basel, Switzerland

Pinot Blanc Prize, offered by Swiss Wine Promotion

Bötzingen Weißer Burgunder Trockenbeerenauslese Kaiserstuhl Bötzingen 2013, Baden, Winzergenossenschaft Bötzingen, Bötzingen, Germany

Bio (organic) prize, offered by Eticolle

Pinot Gris 2016, AOC la Côte, Domaine la Capitaine, Begnins, Vaud, Switzerland

Best blend award, offered by Model Emballages SA

Cuvée Andrea 2013, AOC Aargau, Weinbau Gerhard Wunderlin, Zeiningen, Aargau, Switzerland

VINOFED prize, offered by the VINEA Association

Pinot Noir Saint-Jean-Baptiste 2015, AOC Valais, Cave Saint-Philippe, Salquenen/Salgesch, Valais, Switzerland

Vinea is a multidisciplinary association that specializes in wine competitions - the Grand Prix du Vin Suisse, Mondial des Pinots, Mondial du Merlot et Assemblages – as well as organizing events and carrying out mandates to promote the wines of our country, such as the Swiss wine fair and Swiss Wine Week. And, of course: the VINEA Swiss Wines app. For further information:

www.vinea.ch