

## Two competitions are better than one!

The combined tasting sessions for the two international competitions organised by VINEA Association - namely the Mondial du Merlot et Assemblages and the Mondial des Pinots - will take place in Sierre from September 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>. Over the three days, 80 judges divided into two groups will taste and assess no less than 1643 wines from 26 countries.

2020 is certainly a memorable year and one that presents a number of challenges. VINEA Association is renowned for its experience in organising wine competitions, and the Sierre-based organisation has decided to organise its two international competitions (the Mondial du Merlot et Assemblages and the Mondial des Pinots) at the same time this year.

This is a technological feat as the two competitions are 100% computer-run and will take place concurrently using two different servers. It is also a feat in terms of organisation and logistics, as bringing together 80 judges (50% of whom are non-Swiss) in the current climate requires maximum attention to health and safety regulations and represents a challenge in itself.

### Record-breaking 13<sup>th</sup> edition for the Mondial du Merlot et Assemblages

The 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the Mondial du Merlot et Assemblages was initially scheduled to be held in April. This year it has beaten its own record in terms of participation with a total of 511 entries (+11% compared with 2019) from 241 producers from 16 countries. This year's competition president is an Italian star: renowned critic and author Luca Maroni will do us the honour of taking part in the three days of the tasting.

### 21 countries taking part in the Mondial des Pinots

The Mondial des Pinots has a truly international dimension: for its 23<sup>rd</sup> edition, 21 countries will be represented, entering 1132 wines made by 361 producers. Swiss wines are in the majority (more than 80% of entries), but there is significant representation from Germany (91 entries), France (38) and Moldavia (24). The competition president is German oenologist Klaus Hermann, the founder and director of WEIN + MARKT magazine, who will join us for the three days of tasting.

### Awards ceremony in Zermatt on December 11<sup>th</sup> 2020

Both competitions enjoy the patronage of the *Organisation Internationale de la Vigne et du Vin* (OIV), Vinofed, the *Fédération Internationale des grands concours de vins et spiritueux*, and the *Union Suisse des Œnologues* (USOE). This guarantee of quality relates not only to the presentation of the wines, but also to the tasting conditions and the composition of the judging panels (a minimum 40% of foreign tasters).

The results of the two competitions will be revealed at the awards ceremony, to be held in Zermatt's Mont-Cervin Palace on Friday December 11<sup>th</sup>. The official ceremony will be followed by a public tasting of the award-winning bottles, providing a unique occasion to taste the world's very best Pinot and Merlot wines.

### For further information:

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