

Press release

Geneva, 15 July 2019

World Congress of Vine and Wine 2019 in Switzerland: a unique gathering placing Switzerland at the heart of global vitivinicultural issues

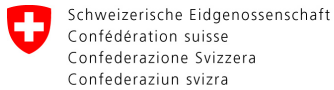
Switzerland, a Member of the International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV) since 1934, is set to host the 42nd Congress and 17th General Assembly. During the week starting 15 July, nearly 650 experts from 47 countries will be in Geneva to discuss scientific, social and environmental issues for the sector and visit the Swiss vineyards.

On 15-19 July 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland is hosting almost 650 international experts working at the heart of current issues in viticulture, oenology and the viticultural economy. Within a rapidly changing sector, these meetings between members of governments, experts and professionals are more essential than ever. Climate change is a source of challenges, such as new consumer expectations with regard to public health, traceability or even environmental protection. In addition, new areas of production are seeing significant growth around the world and purchasing methods are evolving, as with online sales, for example.

On the programme: scientific meetings and discovery of the Swiss viticultural heritage

The central theme of the gathering, '**Preservation and innovation: expectations at the environmental, economic and social levels**' has the aim of presenting contributions of science and innovation with an eye to sustainable vitivinicultural production. Over two days, nearly 200 presentations and 150 posters will address issues and advances in viticulture and oenology, including topics relating to the economy, law, safety and health. The speakers are from over 40 nations – countries traditionally associated with the vitivinicultural world like France, Spain and Italy but also countries like Japan and Bolivia, as well as consumer countries like Denmark or the United Kingdom.

Among the topics presented, the discussions will deal with climate change, to which vines are highly sensitive; value promotion of products (terroirs, origin, sanitary and food-grade quality of vine products, sugar content, allergens, etc.); and even vine protection, with the highly topical question of input management. The latter will also be the theme of a public conference to take place in the afternoon of Monday 15 July, with the title: 'A reasoned approach to inputs: scientific contributions and consumer perception'. The question of inputs is to be covered from both a technical perspective and the point of view of consumers.



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Another highlight: meetings all over the country between the Swiss vitivincultural field and international experts. Each of the six Swiss wine regions will be presented over meals and at social events in Geneva and in the French-speaking cantons. Wines associated with the typical products of each region will be offered to participants. A unique opportunity to taste original Swiss wines that are scarcely available in other countries (exports stand at less than 1% of annual production). Technical visits in the 3 Lacs region and in the cantons of Vaud and of Valais will allow participants to gain an understanding of the issues, traditions and savoir-faire of Swiss professionals, in production as well as research and training.

The week will culminate with a show at the Fête des Vignerons and can be continued over the weekend, for participants who so wish, by taking post-tours in Ticino, in Valais or in the region of Lake Constance.

What is the International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV)?

The OIV is an intergovernmental organisation of a scientific and technical nature of recognised competence for its work concerning vines, wine, wine-based beverages, table grapes, raisins and other vine-based products. The objectives of this intergovernmental organisation are to provide information, assistance, harmonisation, standardisation and support to the global vitivincultural sector. To do this, the OIV works with a network of over 1000 experts from all over the world.

Switzerland, a country with a centuries-old winegrowing tradition, will have the honour of hosting delegates from the 47 Member States of the International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV) at the 42nd World Congress of Vine and Wine in Geneva in 2019. A member of the OIV since 1934, Switzerland previously hosted the international organisation in 1935, in 1955, and then in 1977.

Detailed programme of the 42nd OIV Congress: www.oiv2019.ch

Scientific programme: http://oiv2019.ch/2019/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/OIV2019_Programme_Index_A5_dp.pdf

For more information about the OIV (in French):
http://oiv2019.ch/2019/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/n90_dossier_OIV.pdf

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