

PRESS RELEASE

CHENIN BLANC IN A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

January 2019

L'Académie du Chenin, Destination Angers and its partners are launching the **first Chenin Blanc International Congress in Angers on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd of July 2019.**

This international congress promises to be a must-attend event for Chenin blanc. Three days of debates and meetings between scientists and professionals: conferences and round tables on the future of Chenin blanc in the face of the environmental, climatic, economic, societal and cultural challenges of the 21st century.

This congress will also provide an opportunity to participate in tastings of Chenins from around the world and to discover the vineyards of the Loire Valley.

This inaugural edition of the congress is being co-organised by the Académie du Chenin and Destination Angers in partnership with Interloire, the Fédération Viticole d'Anjou Saumur, the Fédérations Viticoles d'Indre-et-Loire et de la Sarthe, the University of Stellenbosch and the South African Chenin Blanc Association.

This professional congress is a continuation of the 1996 conferences on the 'Terroirs viticoles' (INRA Angers), the 2003 'Landscapes of vines and wines' (Union of Œnologists of France/INRA Royal Abbey of Fontevraud) and the 2015 Chenin blanc study day (Museum of Vine and Wine, Saint- Lambert-du-Lattay).

The Loire Valley, iconic Chenin blanc territory, will hosts this first edition. Formerly known as the Plant d'Anjou, the history of Chenin in the Loire Valley, dates back to the Middle Ages. Today, the Loire Valley is home to 95% of Chenin planted in France, its third most planted grape variety. The world's 17th-most widely planted white-wine grape variety, the Chenin blanc grape is also grown in other wine-producing countries that will be present at this inaugural congress, including South Africa, the world's leading producer of Chenin wines.

The Chenin Blanc International Congress will become a biennial meeting that will be held alternately in the Loire, and in other countries around the world.

This event, dedicated to Chenin, its history and its future in a changing environment, will welcome more than 300 participants including winegrowers, sommeliers, scientific delegates, researchers, importers, experts, journalists, international companies in the wine sector, and all Chenin enthusiasts.

On offer will be round tables, tastings of Chenins from around the world, exhibitions and visits to the vineyards of the Val de Loire.

Press Contact : Evelyne de Pontbriand

Académie du Chenin

Château des Vaults | 49170 Savennières France

academieduchenin@gmail.com | +33.6.11.87.90.67

www.academieduchenin.org

Professionals from around the wine world will gather for three days to discuss the following topics:

- Biology and behaviour of Chenin blanc in a changing environment
- World history of Chenin blanc: new advances
- Is Chenin blanc an asset for climate change? The challenges of climate change for Chenin viticultural territories in the world and the strengths and weaknesses of the viticultural and oenological practices/techniques in a changing environment.
- Realities of Chenin blanc heritage landscapes. Reading the landscape of Savennières.
- Wine and winemaking journeys of Chenin blanc in a changing environment.
- The taste, the tastes of Chenin blanc (minerality? versatility...)
- The economic challenges facing Chenin blanc wines.
- The civilisation of wine, the imagination of Chenin. Wine tourism as a creator.

This international congress aims at connecting wine professionals with research, conservation, development and innovation around Chenin blanc within the new challenges of the wine world and to make this grape and its relationship to the terroir known around the world.

In the context of growing consumer interest in white wines in their great global diversity Chenin, with its particular potential in relation to terroirs and its singular versatility, has its rightful place in the world of great white wines.

Register now: www.CBIC2019.com

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