

## ***La Grande Dégustation de Montréal* announces the 10 finalists in its annual competition**

A total of 89 Rieslings submitted for blind tasting by a jury of experts

**Montréal, November 2, 2017** – *La Grande Dégustation de Montréal* unveiled the 10 finalists in its annual wine competition which, for the 2017 edition, was dedicated to Rieslings. Gathered in Montreal on October 5<sup>th</sup>, the jury of 21 specialists awarded these prestigious honors at the opening ceremony of *La Grande Dégustation de Montréal*, which attracts nearly 15,000 visitors to Place Bonaventure from November 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>.

This year, more than 60 producers from around the world entered *La Grande Dégustation de Montréal*, submitting to blind tasting a total of 89 wines of this white variety which originates in the Rhine Valley and the Moselle, and is now grown on all continents. A late ripening grape variety, Riesling is used in a wide selection of wines.

The jury, made up of 21 professionals from the wine industry, met to taste Rieslings from 10 countries. "The caliber of the wines was extremely high and judges were impressed by the quality, variety and richness of the Rieslings submitted," said Jean Aubry, critic and columnist, as well as the jury president for 2017. The three top picks from each category will be featured in the l'Espace Cellier area of the SAQ outlets in 2018.

### **LIST OF THE 10 FINALISTS OF THE 2017 AWARDS**

#### **DRY RIESLING CATEGORY**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Wineconsale GmbH Wunderwerk Riesling Rheinhessen 2013, Germany, Rheinhessen, 12.91% alc., 100% Riesling
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Weingut am Stein Stettener Stein Riesling Franken 2016, Germany, Franconia, 12% alc., 100% Riesling
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Weingut am Stein Stettener Riesling Franken 2016, Germany, Franconia, 12% alc., 100% Riesling
- 4<sup>th</sup> Preiss Zimmer SARL Cave de Turckheim Alsace Grand Cru Brand Riesling 2013, France, Alsace, 12.67% alc., 100% Riesling
- 5<sup>th</sup> Weingut Kaufmann Hattenheim Wisselbrunnen Riesling Trocken Rheingau 2016, Germany, Rheingau, 13% alc., 100% Riesling

#### **HALF DRY RIESLING CATEGORY**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Ste Michelle Wine Estates Eroica Riesling Columbia Valley 2015, United States, Washington, 12.10% alc., 100% Riesling
- 2<sup>nd</sup> La Cave des Vignerons de Pfaffenheim Steinert Alsace Grand Cru Riesling Pfaff 2015, France, Alsace, 13% alc., 100% Riesling
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Hiestand Asia de Cuba Cosmopolitan Riesling Rhein 2016, Germany, Rhein, 11.30% alc., 100% Riesling
- 4<sup>th</sup> Pierre Sparr Alsace Riesling Sol Granitique 2015, France, Alsace, 13% alc., 100% Riesling
- 5<sup>th</sup> Pierre Sparr Alsace Riesling Sol Calcaire 2015, France, Alsace, 13.50% alc. 100% Riesling

The categorization was made according to OIV regulation 3.2. In accordance with this regulation, for the "dry" category, the list took into account the acidity level up to a maximum of 9 gr of residual sugars. For the "semi-dry" category, the list took into account acidity up to a maximum of 18 gr of residual sugars.

## COMPOSITION OF THE JURY OF THE 2017 COMPETITION

### JURY PRESIDENT

*Jean Aubry*, Columnist and critic for the daily newspaper *Le Devoir*

### MEMBERS OF THE JURY

*Alain Bélanger* - Sommelier, bronze medalist at the Meilleur Sommelier du monde 2000 competition, Second place at the 1997 Sopexa Grand Prix International Final and Best sommelier of Quebec 1995.

*Ian Purtell* - Catering director and sommelier-wine counselor at Le Coureur des Bois / Rive-Gauche Hotel (Beloeil).

*Marie-Michèle Grenier*, Sommelier and columnist at *La Voix de l'Est*, sommelier and host of *Vins au Féminin*

*Kler-Yann Bouteiller* – Second best sommelier of Quebec 2009-2011, consultant, sommelier instructor and wine columnist at *Exquis Magazine*.

*Simon Gaudreau-Rouleau* – Co-owner and head of development at Dunham Brewery.

*Carl Villeneuve-Lepage* - Best Sommelier of Canada 2017 and Best Sommelier of Quebec 2014, Sommelier at Toqué!

*Frédéric Arnould* - Journalist and blogger.

*Geneviève Thibault* - Sommelier and host of *Vins au Féminin*

*Marie-Hélène Boisvert* - Blogger.

*Olivier Robin* - Training consultant at the SAQ.

*Guénaél Revel* - Consultant, historian and speaker, author and presenter, specializing in sparkling wines, champagne, port and rum.

*Caroline Chagnon* - Sommelier and wine columnist at *La Tribune*, host of *Lève ton verre* and for *Vins au Féminin*

*Robert Lamarre* - Wine Consultant at the SAQ, retired.

*François Côté* – Sommelier-wine counselor and trainer.

*Eric Bertoldi* - Product expert at the SAQ.

*Ulrike Lenhardt* - Assistant Director and Project Manager at the Institute of German Wines (Deutsches Weininstitut).

*Carmine Caravaggio*- Professor at the *Institut du tourisme et de l'hôtellerie du Québec* (ITHQ)

*Denis St-Pierre*- Sommelier-wine counselor at DSP Sommelier, management training advisor for Groupe St-Hubert, retired.

*Anne Vaillancourt* -Wine director at Bulles Communications and co-host at *Lève ton verre*, wine columnist at CIGN (Coaticook), *MonToit* and *Les Radieuses* magazines

*Pascal Patron* – Sommelier, author and sommelier instructor at *Institut du tourisme et de l'hôtellerie du Québec* (ITHQ)

### **About the annual competition *Palmarès de La Grande Dégustation de Montréal***

Organized by the *Association québécoise des agences de vins, bières et spiritueux* (AQAVBS), the *Palmarès de La Grande Dégustation de Montréal* contest benefits from the logistical help of *Sélections Mondiales du Canada* and the technical direction of Réal Wolfe, expert in wine.

### **About *La Grande Dégustation de Montréal***

*La Grande Dégustation de Montréal* is a unique gathering where nearly 200 winemakers, distillers and brewers share their passion with more than 13,000 wine, beer and spirits enthusiasts and connoisseurs. At the forefront of a thriving industry, the event allows Quebec consumers to interact with producers from around the world, as well as enjoy an incomparable taste experience. *La Grande Dégustation de Montréal* is organized by the *Association québécoise des agences de vins, bières et spiritueux* and is co-presented by the *Société des alcools du Québec*.