



The Grand Conseil Newsletter

November 2009

◆  **Bruxelles – 5th November 2009**

**Extraordinary Chapter of the Grand Conseil du Vin de Bordeaux
to mark the transfer of power between
the outgoing Maître, Mr Jean Pyls & Doctor Philippe Hanssens**

***Held on 5th November 2009
at the Cercle Gaulois in Brussels***

The guest of honour of this Extraordinary Chapter, followed by a Gala Dinner reception, was Her Excellency Mrs Michèle Boccoz, French Ambassador in Belgium, who, despite her considerable responsibilities, kindly accepted to grace this superb occasion with her presence.



Michèle Boccoz, French Ambassador in Belgium Induction



After Mr Jean Pyls' opening speech to welcome those present, the Grand Maître, Michel-Pierre Massonie, began the Chapter by speaking most highly of the outgoing Maître and on behalf of the Grand Conseil thanked him most sincerely, as well as his wife, for the tremendous work accomplished during his term of office.

He also paid tribute to founding member Mr Henri Van Tichilen, now sadly departed, and

Mr Guy Alexandre Martens, Maître Honorary who attended the evening's events with his wife.

"It is thanks to these keen and willing people who have kindly devoted their free time and contributed their decisive know-how to coordinating and running our worldwide association that the Commanderie de Bordeaux in Brussels has such an excellent reputation" he said.



Cercle Gaulois Lounges



Jean-René Pyls & M.P Massonie

The outgoing Maître was presented with the titles of Maître Emeritus de Bordeaux and Honorary Maître of the Commanderie de Bordeaux in Brussels.

The Chapter continued by welcoming the new Maître in Brussels, Doctor Philippe Hanssens, elected democratically by the Conseil Privé of his Commanderie and confirmed in this function by the Management Committee in Bordeaux.

“After his remarkable academic studies, Philippe Hanssens qualified as a General Practitioner and specialist in stomatology and maxillofacial surgery.

Having completed his university education, Dr Hanssens took an oenology and wine tasting course with a professor who had recently graduated from Bordeaux University”.



Dr Philippe Hanssens Speech



Philippe Hanssens Induction

Officially appointed as Maître of the Commanderie de Bordeaux in Brussels and Conseiller du Vin de Bordeaux, it was then Doctor Philippe Hanssens’ turn to speak, so he briefly gave some details about the programme he intends to develop within this Commanderie for which he is now responsible.

We are delighted about this and sure that thanks to his motivation and the assistance of his direct colleagues such as Vice-Maître Thierry Bindelle, the Commanderie de Bordeaux in Brussels has a bright future ahead during which it will continue to promote Bordeaux’s fine wines in this friendly country so close to France.



Thierry Bindelle & Philippe Hanssens

Fifteen Bordeaux estate owners representing various wine brotherhoods were also present at this event.

L'UNION DES GRANDS CRUS DE BORDEAUX

In Bordeaux, man has learnt to draw the most out of an exceptional land and climate. Beyond this mastery, and due to a permanent will to improve the quality of their wines, the owners of the Châteaux wanted to share their passion with amateurs worldwide. It's this determination to make better known the best of the Gironde product that sparked off the creation of l'Union des Grands Crus de Bordeaux in 1973.

Today, the Union groups together just less than 135 crus issued exclusively from the greatest lands of the Médoc, the Graves and Pessac-Léognan, the Sauternes and Barsac, the Saint-Emilion and the Pomerol. Economical players, the property members represent about 5.000 hectares of the greatest lands of the Bordeaux vineyards. Their average production is in the order of 30 million bottles, the majority of them exported. These wines represent a global sales figure in the order of 500 million Euros.

In advised communicating, l'Union des Grands Crus de Bordeaux members



know that producing a great wine goes hand in hand with the need to make it known. Tireless travellers; those responsible for these great wines travel worldwide to personally introduce their recent vintage wine, in a collective way, to the local heads of press and distribution. In this way, it brings an extra, effective strength to the merchants charged with the marketing.

In France, l'Union des Grands Crus de Bordeaux organises the Primeur's week, an event that attracts the distribution and media of the whole world, all coming to discover the new vintage wine in the Bordeaux vineyards.



But it is also towards the general public that the Union addresses itself since 2006 by inviting people to come to Bordeaux to live out their passion for great wines for a weekend in May or June.

“Le Weekend Des Grands Amateurs” in this way fulfils this apprehension of offering the possibility for wine lovers to meet the women and men who make the wine, all this while tasting it in a form usually reserved for the professionals.



Dégustation lors du Week-end des Grands Amateurs de Bordeaux

The list of members as well as the programs of l'Union des Grands Crus de Bordeaux can be consulted on the website <http://ugcb.net>.

Union des Grands Crus de Bordeaux

10, cours du XXX Juillet F-33000 Bordeaux
05 56 51 91 91 ugc@ugcb.net



To all Confréries & Commanderies

If you have news to diffuse, (chapters dates, different events or anything else), please transmit them by e-mail to the Grand Conseil. gcvbx@wanadoo.fr

We will publish them on the « Grand Conseil News bulletin»