

## Welcome to the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual International OMGD Grand Chapitre

## **Dear Members**

After having returned to our usual physical activities, with our successfully held International OMGD Grand Chapitre last September in Budapest, we are delighted to cordially invite you to participate in the 4th Annual International OMGD Grand Chapitre. This will take place this year from September  $20^{\text{th}} - 24^{\text{th}}$  in the cosmopolitan and most westerly Turkish city of Izmir.

Izmir is located on the Turkish Aegean Sea coast known in antiquity as "Smyrna". It was founded by the Greeks, taken over by the Romans and then rebuilt by Alexander the Great before becoming part of the Ottoman Empire in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Today Izmir is a large province containing 11 urban districts with 3,000 years of recorded urban history and has more than 4.4 million inhabitants. It also incorporates the nearby ancient cities of Ephesus, Pergamon, Sardis, and Klazomenai. Besides its heritage and expansive archaeological sites, Izmir Province is considered as the "Hidden Gem" of oenology, as well as its wine industry yet to be fully discovered globally. The beauty and irony of this is that it's a region that played a pivotal role in the early history of wine and is likely to have been one of the earliest wine producing regions of the world.

During the eventful 4-day programme, we will be introduced to Turkish wine history in general and specifically to the Izmir wine region. In addition, we will be visiting selected number of vineyards, wine producers and cellars, and tasting a wide variety of superb Turkish wines. This will be partnered and enjoyed with an array of exquisite culinary eats at famous and historical dining venues in Izmir ... but equally as important "Turkish Hospitality" will be experienced.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank our colleague Yves Léon, Member of the Conseil Magistral and Bailli Délégué of Türkiye, and Bülent Akgerman, Bailli of Izmir, for hosting this year's International OMGD Grand Chapitre in their esteemed country, and for being instrumental in the preparation of the unique programme.

Looking forward to welcoming you in Izmir.

Vive la Chaîne et Vive l'Ordre Mondial

Mohamed Hammam Chair, OMGD International Committee Member of the Conseils d'Administration & Magistral

Yam Atallah President La Chaîne des Rôtisseurs