



**FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES CONFRERIES BACHIQUES
(F.I.C.B.)**

Association régie par la loi du 1er juillet 1901

Siège social : c/o Musée du Vin de Paris – 5, Square Charles Dickens, 75016- Paris, France

www.winebrotherhoods.org

info@winebrotherhoods.org

March 29, 2020

**To the participants
Registered for the F.I.C.B. International Congress in the Piedmont region**

Dear Registrant

The 51st F.I.C.B. Congress was to take place in Alba and the Piedmont region from 4 to 10 June 2020. The organisers, the Order of the Knights of the Truffle and Wines of Alba and Langhe-Experience tours&events, have put together a very attractive programme to enable participants to discover their beautiful region and prestigious wines (Barolo, Nebbiolo, Barbaresco in particular) under exceptional conditions. This programme was greatly appreciated and we had to set up a pre-selection procedure as we had to limit ourselves to 200 participants due to the capacity of the magnificent places where the events will take place. You have been selected to participate in the Congress and you have registered.

Unfortunately, the COVID 19 pandemic has meanwhile hit the whole world and it is not possible for the Congress to take place on the dates planned. The F.I.C.B. Executive committee and the organisers have therefore decided to postpone the Congress for one year (to 3 to 9 June 2021), with the same programme and the same financial conditions. We have logically decided to postpone by one year the two following events (Challenge in Hungary to 2022 and Congress in Portugal to 2023), with the agreement of their organisers. The postponement of the 2020 Congress is in the hope that the world situation will return to normal in the next few months and that you will be able to take advantage of this long-awaited event to rediscover the spirit of conviviality and sharing that animates our wine brotherhoods. We thank you to let the tour operator know if you confirm your participation, **and this before September 30, 2020, a date which gives you time to reflect and see how the situation evolves.**

In the event that, for personal reasons, you cannot postpone your participation, we have obtained from the organisers that they apply reimbursement rules that go well beyond their strict legal obligations related to the "force majeure" that constitutes the pandemic. Indeed, if you cancel your participation before 30 September, you will be

refunded 90% of your registration fee, instead of 75%, unless you or your wine brotherhood find a replacement, in which case you will be refunded 100%.

If by September 30 we did not have at least 100 confirmed participants, we would have to cancel the Congress, which would be a great disappointment to all those who look forward to it with faith in the future. We therefore hope that, in the spirit of our wine brotherhoods and in order to meet again to share an exceptional event, you will confirm your registration so that together, and after the trials we are currently going through, we can renew the warm contacts that you appreciate.

I do hope that you and your family are safe, and send all my sympathy in the difficult circumstances we are facing currently.

With my brotherly regards

Alan Bryden

President of the F.I.C.B.