

Le Lien

Bulletin
de liaison de

La Commanderie des Costes du Rhône



Le grand Maître Patrick Galant a présidé les cérémonies de Liège

Éditorial

2025 is a year to be marked with a white stone for the activities of the Commanderie and its baronies around the world since the beginning of the 21st century. Over the past year, dozens of events in France, Canada, the United States, Switzerland, Belgium, Germany, and China have benefited from the presence of Commanders in full regalia, each time

bringing the authenticity and tradition inherent to our Commanderie. We were able to hold our grand summer chapter in Suze and participate in numerous Sainte Cécile wine festivals in Vaison, as well as in Nyons, Mirabel, Avignon, and Voyer.

A delegation shared the joy of our Belgian friends, who celebrated, with the enthusiasm we know them for, the 35th anniversary of their Barony which works tirelessly throughout the year to promote the discovery of our terroirs and the recognition of the winemakers of our Appellation. It is thanks to all these friends that, despite the uncertainties of the moment, it will continue to be honored worldwide.

Patrick GALANT - Grand Master of the Commanderie

Photos of the Year



Chevalier Li-Ping WANG au camp de base pour l'ascension de l'Everest

Thanks to our Knights of the Shanghai Barony, the banner of the Commanderie des Costes du Rhône has flown at all latitudes and altitudes: on the roof of the world, at 8,848 meters, thanks to our newest knight, Madame Li-Ping Wang, and thanks to Mr. Zhang Qing Yu, Knight of Shanghai, in Antarctica. Bravo to both!!



M. Zhang Qing Yu en Antarctique

AVIGNON

Capital of the Côtes du Rhône

Avignon Avignon is the capital of the appellation, and the Commanderie visits several times a year. 2025 was no exception, starting in March with the 40th anniversary of the Avignon Wine Competition, organized by Knight José Gonzalvès, an unmissable event for the appellation. Each year, the Commanderie adds its special touch by inducting local personalities. This year, Lady Andrée Jullian, a member of the organizing committee, Gentlemen Philippe Meron (journalist at La Provence), Emmanuel Lopez (president of the Disciples of Escoffier), and Gilbert Macelli (president of the Vaucluse Chamber of



Au concours des vins 2025 © J. Calabrese



Les Commandeurs à Avignon le 21 novembre

Commerce) joined the Commanderie as Knights. In August, the Commanderie participated in the grape harvest festival, and in November, in Millévin. Each time, the Commanderie represented the appellation and all its brotherhoods.

Friendship, Wine, and Rugby

Some sports, more than others, create lasting friendships beyond active participation. Rugby is one of them, often allows meetings and impromptu encounters throughout life. Wine is a social bond, indispensable in these troubled times, and in our region, the University of Wine in Suze la Rouse is the undisputed reference for this kind of meetings. Thus, at the invitation of his friends from the southern Drôme, the president of Stade Toulousain, Didier Lacroix, came to present them with the Brennus Shield and the 2024 European Cup that his Club won after a hard-fought battle.

Also, at the initiative of Michel Bianco and his son from Suze-la-Rousse and with the complicity of Mr. Raynaud, vice-president of the Bédarrides club, and Bernard Ladame from Bollène, a meeting took place between



Jo Maso et Bernard Viviers et leurs hôtes

the leaders of the University of Wine Michel Bourdarel, its vice-president (and Grand Treasurer of the Commanderie of the Costes du Rhône), and Géraldine Gossot, its director, and famous international rugby players since they are Knights, former internationals Jo Maso and Bernard Viviers.

Voyer: 38 Years of Loyalty

Among the fairs attended by the "Vins en fête" association, the one in Voyer, Lorraine, in September is one of the oldest and most popular. At each edition, the Commanderie, with its specific "Vins en Fête" coat of arms, inducts Knights among friends of the appellation chosen from the local community, as this year with Catherine Belrhiti, senator of Moselle, and two members of the festival committee, Nicolas Guillard and Eric Nisseron. Thanks to Isabelle Sourdon, the president, and the members for perpetuating such a tradition based on friendship with the winemakers of the Côtes du Rhône (22 present this year!).



A Voyer

Winter Chapter

The Commanderie has revived the tradition of the winter chapter around the truffle. It took place on February 7 at the Château de Massillan in Uchaux. The occasion to induct 9 knights, including Madame Sophie Elizéon, prefect of Ardèche..



Le chapitre à Massillan

The Grand Master and the Commanders wish you an happy new year 2026!

BARONY OF SWITZERLAND



Chapitre de printemps

The General Assembly of the Swiss Barony was held in Montreux last March. The GA always provides a pleasant opportunity for members to gather once the official deliberations are over. This year, the evening's theme

focused on the estate Christelle Betton, presented by the winemaker herself, who enthusiastically shared her beautiful production of Hermitage and Crozes-Hermitage wines, all under AOC designation.

The highlight of the gathering was the blind tasting game honoring this fine Drôme terroir, which produces red wines where Syrah reigns supreme without overshadowing its companion white varieties, Marsanne and Roussanne.

Two chapters were organized in 2025, offering wonderful opportunities to celebrate food-and-wine pairings in picturesque settings. The first took place in Monthey in Valais at the end of May and brought together 110 participants who enjoyed refined and innovative cuisine based on local Chablais-Valaisan products.

A three-day trip was organized in Provence at the end of June, during which around thirty participants (20 knights and their companions) visited several estates: Les Escaravilles, Clos Cazaux, Les Bosquets, and Domaine de la Roche-Audran, which is dedicated to biodynamic practices.

The second chapter of the year, the 68th, was held on November 1st in Blonay, above Montreux following the autumn tradition. The autumn chapter is traditionally preceded by the major annual tasting, which in 2025 focused on the wines of the Vacqueyras region.

This event was a great success, featuring invited estates such as Domaine de la Ganse, Roucas Toumba, Le Sang des Cailloux, Clos de Frères, La Monardière, and Les Ondines. More than 40 wines from around thirty estates representing the full range of the Côtes du Rhône complemented this overview, attracting many members to the evening. During this event, we had the pleasure of welcoming eminent members from the Barony of Ghent, Liège, Québec, and Montréal. A wonderful evening that brought together 140 guests in a festive atmosphere to enjoy a menu built around autumn produce—game and chestnuts—paired with carefully selected Vacqueyras wines from those presented the previous day.

During these two chapters, the Swiss Barony inducted a total of 6 new knights and one new officer.

Finally, a delegation from Montreux took part in the celebrations for the 35th anniversary of the Barony of Liège in early November. It should also be noted that during this year, the Swiss Barony produced 3 issues of the newsletter "Le Grappilleur," sent to every member.



Les intronisés de la soirée du 2 novembre

BARONY OF GHENT

Theatre and wine

On April 4th, the Barony attended the theatrical performance "En Route" by Steven Decraene and his partner, followed by a large reception featuring wines from Côtes du Rhône. Full house (229 people). That Friday, the festival hall of the Lede municipal centre was transformed into a French and Rhône-style atmosphere. The Barony of Ghent had joined forces with the Molenberg Commanderie of the Vlaamse Wijngilde (Flemish Wine Guild) to present this conference-show duo created by Steven Decraene and his partner Géraldine. Steven has long been a journalist for Flemish television, specializing in French news, and used his skills

as a speaker to (re)present France and especially its capital, Paris. But the evening did not end there: after the performance, the audience was invited to a large reception with more than a hundred bottles of quality wines from most of the Rhône appellations and crus... and not a not a single one remained full! A beautiful Franco-Belgian atmosphere, both cultural and wine-focused. Also worth noting was the presence of a fine delegation of 21 people, including 7 Commandeurs, at the summer chapter in Suze. Hilde Goossens was knighted as our tenth Commandeur, and the Ghent delegation was an integral part of the 35th anniversary of the Barony of Liège (see page 3). The Barony was also present at the major "Rhône in White" tasting in Dilbeek on May 23 and at the "Crozes-Hermitage" Master Class tasting on November 24 in Brussels.



Annual Chapter and Banquet on November 29th at the De Lozen Boer restaurant

After the great success of our "Vacqueyras" Chapter-Banquet (June 8, 2024) celebrating our twentieth anniversary, we continued on the same path by highlighting the Cairanne appellation.

Several fruitful contacts with the appellation's syndicate, led by Laurent Brusset, allowed us to welcome a delegation of no fewer than 10 estates: Domaine Brusset, Clos Romane, Les Grands Bois, Moun Pantai (already present at our 'Plan de Dieu' Banquet in 2023), La Cave des Vignerons réunis, Château de Serre Blanc, La Guintrandy, Xavier Vignon, Domaine Roche, and Marcel Richaud.

What winemaker wouldn't be interested in the process of brewing good Ghent beers? That's what we introduced to the Cairanne delegation during a visit-dinner at the urban brewery Brasserie Artevelde, opposite our magnificent town hall. Saturday began with a guided tour of the historic center of our city, so rich in history.

We then headed to the restaurant De Lozen Boer in Lochristi, a reference venue where the Commanderies of the Flemish Wine Guild have held their major events for decades. The afternoon was dedicated to our Cairanne wine fair, which attracted an interested public eager to learn more about this appellation.

Two masterclasses met this demand for information. The evening began—after a reception featuring Cairanne white wines—with a chapter during which we inducted four new knights: Michaël Van Droogenbroeck (VRT journalist), Luc Dewulf (president of the Vlaamse Wijngilde), Gunther Ploegaerts (president of Alumni Sommeliers-Conseil), and Jan Rombaut (engineer and VUB professor). Then came the grand banquet, generously accompanied by Cairanne cuvées in perfect harmony with the dishes confirming the gastronomic reputation of De Lozen Boer. The 209 participants, and especially the winemakers, undoubtedly kept an excellent memory of this evening.

We warmly thank the winemakers of Cairanne for their logistical support and wine-related generosity, without which this evening would not have been possible.

Luc Wieme



Lors de la réception de Cairanne le 29 novembre

BARONY OF DRUMMONDVILLE

The Barony of Drummondville held its 28th chapter on June 7, 2025, in the splendid reception hall of Chevalier Sylvain Messier. In an atmosphere filled with conviviality and celebration, about thirty guests attended the induction of Chevalière, Lady Marie-Michelle Piette, chiropractor, and Commandeur Sir Simon Falardeau, internal medicine physician. The meal and appetizers served throughout the evening were creations of chef William L'Heureux of L'Odika, a high-end caterer well-known in the Drummondville region. The carefully selected food and wine pairings allowed everyone to further appreciate the quality and richness of the wines presented during the event.

The evening was beautifully accompanied by exceptional wines from the Côtes du Rhône, including some older vintages, inspiring many guests to explore more of the activities offered by the Barony of Drummondville in the coming year. It is also worth noting that a prestigious tasting of Rhône crus was organized by the Drummondville Barony in 2025 and delighted all those in attendance.



Commandeurs et intronisés du 7 juin 2025

BARONY OF SHANGHAI



L'Assemblée générale de septembre

In 2025, the Barony of Shanghai welcomed two new knights: Ms. Wang Liping and Mr. Wang Huan. Both took part in the Grand Summer Chapter in Suze, where they were inducted. The Barony of Shanghai organized five events in 2025. In March, a meeting for the Chinese New Year was held, bringing together 12 knights. The theme of the discussion was: How to integrate more cultural elements into the barony's activities in 2025? In May, the Barony of Shanghai organized an excursion to Qingpu, attended by 20 knights and their families. The theme of the discussion was: China's economic growth. In July, the Consul of the Barony of Shanghai led a delegation of 12 people to France. Most of them were participating for the first time in the Grand Chapter and were thus able to better appreciate the spirit of the Commanderie.

They also discovered local wines. In September, the Barony of Shanghai held its annual general meeting, bringing together twelve knights, each accompanied by a friend, with the aim of recruiting new members for the Barony.

In November, the six founding members of the Barony of Shanghai met to study the possibility of contributing to the promotion of Rhône wines.

One of the highlights of 2025 was the involvement of many members in promoting the Barony: as part of their own activities, they displayed the barony's banner in exceptional places: the Everest base camp, the summit of Everest, Antarctica, emblematic buildings of the Shanghai World Expo, and various competition sites.

In January 2026, the Barony of Shanghai plans to organize a celebration to define the theme and projects for 2026.

BARONY OF LIEGE

35 Years of Loyalty

The year 2025 will remain a major milestone in the history of the Barony, brilliantly marking its 35th anniversary. Such longevity deserves to be celebrated in style, and it was on the legendary Spa-Francorchamps circuit, at the foot of the equally famous corner "Raidillon", that we blew out the candles, in an atmosphere filled with emotion, conviviality, and the pride of belonging to such a vibrant and endearing Barony.

1 – Beginning in Switzerland

A fine delegation of twelve Commanders and Officers from the Liège Barony travelled to Montreux, on the shores of Lake Geneva, to launch the official festivities of their 35th anniversary and welcome the delegation from Quebec. The official Chapter of the Swiss Barony, in the heights of Blonay, was preceded by a highly attractive program : fondues and raclette evenings, visits to the Gruyère House and the Cailler chocolate factory, a tasting of chasselas in the Marsens Tower (with an excellent Dézaley-Marsens!), and a stroll through the historic Saint Martin fair in Vevey... And what can be said of the magnificent tasting of Vacqueyras wines! It was a memorable start to the future feasts of Ghent and Liège...



Visite à l'abbaye du Val-Dieu

2 – following at Ghent with a Ghent component, an integral part of the 35th anniversary of the Barony of Liège. On Tuesday, November 4th, a welcome reception and tour-tasting-dinner took place at the Brasserie Artevelde, opposite the town hall. On Wednesday, November 5th, a guided tour (by Commander Luc Wieme) of the historic center was followed by a riverboat trip. At noon, a Ghent-style lunch was served at the Le Progrès restaurant, and in the afternoon, a visit to the town hall and the cathedral, including the Ghent Altarpiece (also known as the Adoration of the Mystic Lamb). Then, in the evening, a grand dinner was held at the Brasserie Ha' with the delegations in attendance.



Inauguration de l'exposition avec le photographe André Courtois

3 – Festivities in Liège

The Barony offered the present Commanders who joined them an enticing program on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday morning in Liège including theater, meals, exhibitions, and visits: Brasserie Elfique on the banks of the Amblève in Aywaille, a retrospective exhibition "35 years of the Liège Barony" with photos by Officer André Courtois, at the wine bar Le Nam's, Didier Smeets chocolaterie in Dalhem, and artisanal syrup maker Nyssen in Aubel, not forgetting the Baronies Evening at the Golden Horse in Fourn-le-Comte, at Luc Marchant's, Ambassador and Officer of the Barony, and the meal at Val-Dieu Abbey.

The 35th Anniversary Gala Evening

The Grand Chapter celebrating the 35th anniversary took place during a truly exceptional Gala Evening at L'Eau Rouge (the name speaks for itself) in Francorchamps.

Each inductee, like a rare grape variety, brought their unique touch to this great fraternal banquet: lively minds, passionate hearts, talents as varied as the wines of a well-stocked cellar. Each, through their background, sensibilities, and enthusiasm, brings a new color, demonstrating the Barony's ability to welcome, renew itself, and grow without ever losing its soul. And what distinguished guests! Flamboyant and committed



Intronisation de Martin Charlier

Liège personalities — Messire Fabrice Drèze, Alderman of Liège, and Lady Diana Nikolic, whose presence brightened the evening; Lady Dominique Demoulin, journalist, or the humorist Martin Charlier — to more discreet but equally delightful personalities, such as Angélica Toussaint or Luc Belien. Not to forget the notable personalities who added their touch of madness and knowledge: the famous forensic doctor Philippe Boxho, member of Les Grosses Têtes, sharing the table with our Officer Fabrizio Bucella, and Messire Jean-François Maréchal, noble knight behind the Barony's new website—a digital vintage sure to make waves far beyond our borders!

During the evening, Jean-Marie Le Bussy was elevated to the rank of Commander and Philippe Evrard to that of Officer. The birthdays of Sébastien Luthers and winemaker Etienne Blanc (Domaine des Asseyras) were also celebrated. Then, as a surprise, the Disciples of Grétry joined the Grand Master Patrick Galant, the Commandeurs of the Commanderie des Costes du Rhône, and all Baronies present (Liège, Ghent, Montreux, Québec, Drummondville, and Philadelphia — quite the gathering!) in singing the Provençal anthem Coupo Santo. A truly unforgettable evening.

The Chapter of November 8 This truly high point of the festive year brought together all the energy, smiles, and commitments that made 2025 a rare vintage. This solemn and warm moment will remain engraved as the finest expression of respect, camaraderie, pleasure, and transmission. Welcoming foreign Baronies and their Consuls was also a key moment, weaving precious bonds beyond our borders. These encounters – filled with respect, curiosity, and friendship - gave 2025 an international dimension that further enriched the life of our Barony. Thanks to the Consuls who made the journey, sometimes a long one, and to their travelling companions! The program concluded on Sunday, November 9, with a Grand Rhône Wines Fair, where 25 winemakers from the Côtes du Rhône presented their finest creations, accompanied by a selection of cheeses. The festivities ended on Monday, November 10, with a Grand Closing Banquet at the Van der Valk Congrès Hotel.

To all those who contributed, through their presence and their passion, to this memorable year, the Barony expresses its deepest gratitude. Together, we have celebrated the past, honored the present, and opened the way to new and promising chapters. In short, a year of transmission, encounters, and shared enthusiasm - the adventure continues, more vibrant than ever! Without a doubt, 2026 will also, bring new challenges to meet with boldness, unifying projects driven by the same contagious energy, and unforgettable moments in which every member of the Barony will help, in their own way, to write an even more brilliant page of its history.



La Coupo Santo © André Courtois



La photo officielle © André Courtois

4 - Prestigious Wine Fair

The program concluded on Sunday, November 9, with a Grand Rhône Wines Fair, where 25 winemakers from the Côtes du Rhône presented their finest creations, accompanied by a selection of cheeses. The festivities ended on Monday, November 10, with a Grand Closing Banquet at the Van der Valk Congrès Hotel.



Au salon des vins une vigneronne belge des Côtes du Rhône

To all those who contributed, through their presence and passion, to this memorable year, the Barony extends its deepest gratitude. Together, we celebrated the past, honored the present, and paved the way for promising new chapters. In short, a year of passing on knowledge, encounters, and shared enthusiasm: the adventure continues, more vibrant than ever! 2026 will undoubtedly also be a year of bold new challenges, of unifying projects driven by this same contagious energy, and of unforgettable moments where each member of the Barony will contribute, in their own way, to writing an even more brilliant chapter in its history.

Didier Maes

5 - Other Events of the Barony in 2025

Several chapters enriched the Barony's activity throughout the year, such as the tasting of Suze-la-Rousse wines and the 137th chapter on May 17 & 18. The discovery of the Suze-la-Rousse vineyard was another highlight, combining heritage, expertise, and shared pleasure. The new winemakers who joined our festivities brought with them the spirit of Suze, which defines the history of this village, whose Château – home to the Wine University – stands as a symbol of Rhône wines.

This tasting allowed us to better understand our role as ambassadors of Rhône wines, passionate and attentive to this exceptional terroir.

Other notable events included the pétanque tournament (May 31), the Inter Rhône tasting of Rhône white wines in June, the summer chapter in Suze-la-Rousse and the meal with the appellation's winemakers in July, the chapter of July 14, the cheese festival in Harzé (August 24), and the gala hunting meal (October 18) at the Golden Horse restaurant.

A full and vibrant year!



Toujours du succès pour les chapitres à Liège

BARONY OF QUEBEC

Five Grand Chapters in the Year

The Barony of Quebec enjoyed a remarkable level of activity in 2025, with prestigious chapters that filled the calendar from February to November:

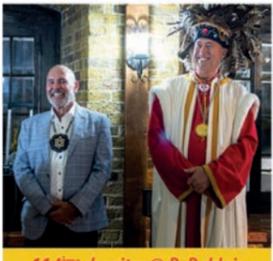
- **February 22, 2025:** 111th Chapter with 65 participants at the Officers' Mess, Citadel of Quebec, co-chaired by His Excellency Éric Lamouroux, Consul General of France, and Richard Giguère, Brigadier General of the Canadian Armed Forces.

- **May 24, 2025:** 112th Chapter with 60 participants.

- **June 11, 2025:** 113th Chapter with 40 participants at the French Residence in Quebec, at the invitation of His Excellency Éric Lamouroux, Consul General of France in Quebec. France thus paid tribute to the Commanderie des Costes du Rhône.

- **September 26, 2025:** Lady Lyne Pelletier, Commander of the Quebec Barony, a leading figure in Quebec's wine world and tireless ambassador of the links between Quebec and France, was awarded the "Médaille du Mérite Agricole Français" by the Consul General of France in Quebec, His Excellency Eric Lamouroux.

- **October 4, 2025:** 114th Chapter with 63 participants at the Officers' Mess, Citadel of Quebec, a special evening with Amerindian and military themes chaired by His Excellency Éric Lamouroux, Consul General of France in Quebec, and in the presence of Mr. Pierre Picard, Grand Chief of the Wendat Nation, and Mr. Richard Giguère, Brigadier General of the Armed Forces.



114^{ème} chapitre © D. Deblois

A tribute was paid to Max Gros-Louis five years after his passing by Consul François Gosselin. Then, the chapter inducted as Knight Messire Jocelyn Paul, Lieutenant General, infantry officer, and member of the Royal 22nd Regiment, sponsored by Brigadier General Richard Giguère (Knight of the Commanderie). It is important to note that Jocelyn Paul is the Indigenous person who has reached the highest rank in the Canadian Armed Forces, his immediate superior being the Chief of the Defence Staff.

- **November 29, 2025:** 115th Chapter at the Officers' Mess, Citadel of Quebec. During this chapter, a couple linked to wine was inducted as Knights: Madame Céline Richard and Messire David Chevalier. Also inducted was Madame Michèle Lamarche, who had a 33-year career at Radio-Canada.



115^{ème} chapitre de Québec © Chevalier André Fortier

BARONY OF MONTREAL

Since its founding in 1984, the Barony of Montreal has held 161 events marked by conviviality and friendship (91 solemn chapters, 70 Discovery/Tasting evenings). These represents numerous moments of public relations and representation; 22,500 guests; and joyful pleasure (in moderation) with more than 15,000 bottles of Côtes du Rhône (red, white, rosé, and sparkling). Above all, 523 personalities from all walks of life, have been inducted as knights and dames, who have sworn to promote and defend the appellation—a true source of pride. In 2025, the Barony organized two chapters and a Discovery/Tasting evening:

- **March 31:** The 70th evening since the foundation, held at the ÉTAT MAJOR restaurant, which serves French-inspired cuisine in Montreal (60 guests). Prestigious wines were tasted: Château Mont-Redon / Réserve MontRedon / Côtes du Rhône

2023; Domaine Stéphane Ogier / Le temps est venu / Côtes du Rhône 2023; Maison Bruyère & David / Viognier Vin de France 2023; Domaine Stéphane Ogier / La Combe de Malleval / Condrieu 2022; Maison Bruyère & David / Les Grandes Terrasses / Condrieu 2022; Domaine Stéphane Ogier / La Rosine / Syrah 2021.

- **June 9:** The 90th solemn chapter took place at the BISTRO GREC PHILINOS, a Greek gastronomy institution in Montreal (65 guests). Wines presented were Le Caillou / Côtes du Rhône 2024; E. Guigal / Côtes du Rhône 2023 (white); E. Guigal / Côtes du Rhône 2023 (red); Domaine du Tunnel / Cornas 2021; Muscat de Beaumes de Venise.

- **November 17:** The 91st solemn chapter was held at the ITHQ in Montreal (Institut de tourisme et d'hôtellerie du Québec) and was a meeting with the Maison M. Chapoutier, under the highly appreciated auspices of Messire James Leonardo De Sa, export manager for Canada and the Caribbean (80 guests). Wines tasted were : Rouge clair by M. Chapoutier (Vin de France) / 2024; M. Chapoutier Combe Pilate, Viognier Collines rhodaniennes / 2023; M. Chapoutier Chante-Alouette Hermitage / 2021; M. Chapoutier Cornas Temenos / 2022; M. Chapoutier Monier de la Sizeranne Hermitage / 2020. In 2026, solemn chapters and Discovery/Tasting evenings are planned for March, June, September, and November.



91^{ème} chapitre à Montréal



La Baronnies au grand complet



BARONY OF THE PALATINE (Mussbach Section)

The Barony's activities in 2025 unfolded differently than planned, notably due to health-related issues. The trip to Strasbourg on the second Saturday of February for the Independent Winemakers' Wine Fair once again attracted many people, including three of our confreres. For the Barony's general assembly at the end of February, we were unable to gather all members – at this time, nearly half were ill. The trip to Strasbourg on the second Saturday of February for the Independent Winemakers' Wine Fair once again attracted many people, including three of our confreres. For the Barony's general assembly at the end of February, we were unable to gather all members – at this time, nearly half were ill. Several confreres met, as every year, in the "museum of winemakers' tools" in the "Herrenhof" (cultural center of Mussbach) to clean objects, tractors, and barrels. By the second week of October, most winemakers had finished the harvest. Compared with previous years, the quantity was not high, but the quality was excellent. Our traditional gathering at Place de la Provence took place in mid-June in the vineyards. Under a bright sky, grilled dishes were served with wines from Mussbach and rosé and red wines from the Drôme provençale. Unfortunately, due to illness, we could not participate in the summer chapter.

For our traditional "Vin Nouveau" gathering at the Mussbach cooperative, only half of our members were present. The end of the year is always marked by the "meeting between the years" on December 28, where all members of our Barony and their wives gather around a large table.

The Commanderie des Costes du Rhône, Mussbach Section, is in mourning following the death of its Commander, Harald Medart. Knighted in 1981, he was the last of the "first hour." Due to his commitment and activities, he was appointed Commander. He left us on February 19 at the age of 88. He will remain forever in our memories. Commanders and many knights accompanied him on his final journey.

BARONY OF NEW-YORK

A New Consul

Our 2024/2025 season was exceptional in many ways! During this season, we organized 8 dinners (4 of them in 2024). Among these, three were the traditional "bring your own wine" dinners, three were winemaker dinners, and two were our popular and successful wine-cellar dinners. Here is a summary of our events:

- **February 11:** Dinner at Tolo, a promising new restaurant in Chinatown, listed among Esquire's best new restaurants of 2024, offering exceptional cuisine and excellent wines.

- **March 10:** Our third winemaker dinner at the Knickerbocker Club featuring Isabel Ferrando, from her eponymous

domain, Famille Isabel Ferrando. Unsurprisingly, her magnetic personality, combined with incredible wines, made for a remarkable evening.

- **April 15:** Dinner at Legacy Records by Chef Hardy, who presented exquisite dishes paired with a wine list crafted by some of the world's greatest sommeliers, all in a lively and highly sophisticated atmosphere.

- **June 16:** Our grand finale, a true pièce de résistance, was marked by an exciting cellar dinner composed exclusively of wines from the Rayas family, held at the Beekman Hotel, where we inducted three new members..

New Consul: Steve Miller



Peter de Haydu, the outgoing Consul, was a founding member of the Barony. He first served nine years as Director of Candidacy, then eight years as Consul. He says himself: "This experience has given me an immense sense of accomplishment, watching this extraordinary Barony grow and establish solid foundations." Stephen (Steve) Miller was elected Consul of the Barony in September 2025. Steve was part of the first group of Knights inducted in 2008 in the newly formed Barony and was elevated to the rank of Commander in February 2019.

Steve took on the role of president of the dinner committee for the barony in autumn 2017, working alongside Consul Peter de Haydu. Beginning 2018, Steve has accompanied him on annual visits to the Rhône Valley to meet winemakers from the North and South, over a week, with the goal of encouraging them to attend member dinners in New York to present and discuss their wines.

Since 2018, more than 25 estates from the Rhône Valley have visited or attended the Barony's Chapters in New York – roughly 3 to 4 per season.

Peter de Haydu et Jean-Pierre Galateau



Les Commandeurs de New-York, l'ancien et le nouveau Consul

Upcoming Dates

- Saturday, January 24 – Sablet - St-Vincent.
- Saturday, March 28 – Avignon wine competition.
- Saturday, July 4 – 500th Chapter – Suze-la-Rousse
Réservations 06 70 79 37 00 and commanderie.cdr@gmail.com.
- Sunday, August 2 – Sainte Cécile les Vignes : Rosé festival.

Barony of Ghent

- Friday, February 27 – Tasting: Clash of the Titans.
- Saturday, June 6 – Guest Chapter – Laudun.
- Friday, November 6 – Wine and Culture.

Barony of Montreal

- Tuesday, April 21 – Discovery/Tasting Evening.
- Monday, June 22 – Solemn Summer Chapter.
- Monday, September 21 – Solemn Autumn Chapter.
- Monday, November 23 – Solemn Chapter "In Memory of Messire Max Aubert."

Barony of Quebec

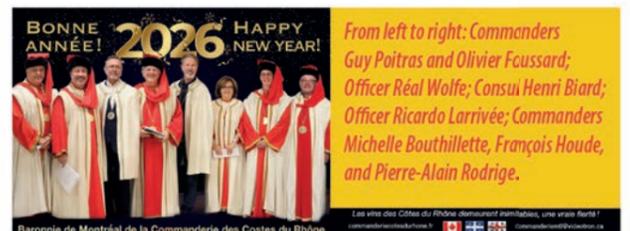
- Saturday, January 24 – 116th Chapter at the Citadel of Quebec.
- Friday, February 27 – 117th Chapter at the French Residence in Quebec.
- Saturday, March 28 – 118th Chapter at the Citadel of Quebec.
- Saturday, May 30 – 119th Chapter at the Citadel of Quebec.

Barony of Switzerland

- Saturday, May 9 – Spring Chapter.
- Thursday, September 3 – Montreux: Thematic Tasting.
- Friday, Nov. 6 and Saturday, Nov. 7 – Blonay: Grand Tasting and Autumn Chapter.

Barony of Drummondville

- Friday, January 16 – 29th Chapter.
- Saturday, June 6 – 30th Chapter.



From left to right: Commanders Guy Poitras and Olivier Fcussard; Officer Réal Wolfe; Consu Henri Biard; Officer Ricardo Larrivière; Commanders Michelle Bouthillette, François Houde, and Pierre-Alain Rodrige.

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