



## 24. Slovenian wine festival with many novelties

Ljubljana, November 15, 2022 – All wine lovers will be able to taste the noble pulse of all the wine-growing regions of Slovenia at the 24th edition of the most prestigious event in the field of wine drinking culture, the Slovenian Wine Festival, which this time, for the second time this year, will be held in Cankarjev dom, specifically on Thursday and Friday, November 17 and 18, from 4 to 9 p.m. Tickets are already on sale. The organizers of the festival are announcing an extremely rich festival, at which more than [120 winemakers and culinary experts](#) from all wine-growing regions of Slovenia will present themselves with more than **550 wine samples**, as well as some foreign ones. **The novelties of this year's festival** are great new workshops for visitors and selected events for winemakers, where they will be able to learn about ways to penetrate new markets and how to use social networks for a better presence on the market. The organizers of the festival **awarded winners of this year's evaluation of festival wines**, and the **end of an active winemaking career** and the transfer to new generations was announced by one of the greatest Slovenian winemakers, **Mr Janez Istenič**.

### WINEMAKERS FROM ALL WINE GROWING COUNTRIES IN SLOVENIA AND ABROAD

At the two-day wine festival in Cankarjev dom, [120 exhibition spaces](#) will be available, among which **winemakers** from all wine-growing regions of Slovenia will traditionally present themselves, and visitors will also have the opportunity to taste foreign wines, namely from **Spain, Austria, Croatia, Italy and Macedonia**. This year, **six salons** will be held, which will present foreign and domestic wine regions under the common denominator: **Salon of wines from Catalonia, Salon of wines from Macedonia, Salon of wines and cuisine from Italy, Salon Mabat, Salon of the Vipava Valley Consortium, Salon of Lendavske gorice**.

To make the rich wine experience even more enjoyable, the organizers have also provided many **culinary delicacies**. In two days, visitors will be able to taste many excellent **meats** from Loška Mesnin and **prosciutto** from Vulcano Schinken manufaktur, **premium** pate from Droga Kolinska, the **rich flavors of Italy** from Barilla Adriatica and the constant companions of every wine tasting, the **girissinies** from Pola Bekeraj. **Coffee pleasures** will be provided by Nanni coffee.

### GUIDED WORKSHOPS FOR VISITORS

As every year, the organizers will **organize 11 top-class guided workshops** at this year's festival, namely: **Beyond Chocolate and Wine** (led by: Valentin Bufolin, the best sommelier of Slovenia 2022, WSET 3, vice president of the Sommelier Association of Slovenia); **Terroir of the Vipava Valley - What Makes the Wines of the Vipava Hills And Terraces Different** (led by: Dr. Klemen Lisjak, Alenka



**Biggest event from the field of  
wine culture in Slovenia**

November 17/18, 2022  
Cankarjev dom, Ljubljana

[www.slovenskifestivalvin.si](http://www.slovenskifestivalvin.si)

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Mihelčič, Dr. Andreja Vazo and Dr. Borut Vrščaj); **The Best Rated Wines of the 24th Slovenian Wine Festival** (led by: Prof. Dr. Tatjana Košmerl); **Competition of Three Countries in Wine Specialties** (led by: Dr. Franci Čuš); **Masterclass - global trend - English Sparkling Wines - Tasting and Food Pairing** (led by: Majda Debevc, WSET® LEVEL 3, WSET® LEVEL 2 PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE IN SPIRIT, and Aleksander Bohinc, 3rd level sommelier, 7 x holder of gold awards at the Slovenian sommelier championship); **I Mean Blue(Frankinja): Tasting of Selected Blue Frankinjas** (led by: Jože Rozman, wine publicist, Miha Ritonja, representative of the evaluation committee of the 12th evaluation of blue frankinjas in Sevnica, and enologist Albiana, Annemarie Culetto, 2nd level sommelier and coordinator of the Blue Francinja Festival, KŠTM Sevnica); **Arty Party – Painting and Wine Making** (led by: Vasja Stojanovski and Špela Vizjak) and a **Premium Workshop to Learn About Wine Varieties in the dark** (led by Valentin Bufolin). *All workshops are in Slovenian language only.*

### **EVALUATION OF FESTIVAL WINES**

**Again this year, the festival evaluation of the submitted wine samples took place.** All participating winemakers were able to submit their wines, which they will present at the festival, to the festival evaluation, which was carried out before the festival by the **President of the Evaluation Committee Prof. Dr. Tatjana Košmerl.**

As part of the expert evaluation for the 24th Slovenian Wine Festival, which took place on November 4 and 5, 2022, a 7-member committee was entrusted with **110 samples**, including **18 high-quality sparkling white wines**, including four foreign samples, **5 sparkling rosé wine** with one foreign representative, **7 white wines with residual sugar**, **23 still red wines**, among which there were also two foreign representatives, and the dominant variety was Franconian Blue with six samples, and **one sample in the red wine category**. **The average score of the evaluated samples was 83.4±2.4 points.**

**The winners of this year's evaluation of festival wines in each category are:**

- **sparkling white wines: Prestige Extra Brut, year 2013**, Istenič d.o.o. (Posavje Bizeljsko-Sremiški district)
- **sparkling rosé wines: Sparkling Wine Joannes Rosé, vintage 2017**, House Joannes Protner (Podravine-Styria region)
- **still white wines: Rhenish Riesling, year 2019**, House Joannes Protner (Podravka-Styria region)
- **white wines with residual sugar: Rhenish Riesling selection, vintage 2019**, Wine Cellar Prus - Bela Krajina (Posavje-Bela Krajina)
- **rosé still wines: Rosé, year 2021**, Kmetijska zadruga Metlika, z.o.o. (Posavje-Bela krajina)
- **still red wines: Virus 3, year 2017**, Sosolič Wines (Primorska-Brda)



The organizers congratulate all the winners for their excellent ranking. The unveiling of the winners and the awarding of awards to the winning winemakers took place on Tuesday, November 15, as part of a press conference in the Peti 181 restaurant in Ljubljana.

### **AFTER 60 YEARS, MR. JANEZ ISTENIČ RETIRES FROM HIS (ACTIVE) WINEMAKING CAREER**

At today's press conference (November 15 in the restaurant Peti 181), **the end of a 60-year active winemaking career** and the **transfer to new generations** was announced by one of the biggest Slovenian winemaking personalities, **Mr. Janez Istenič**, who was given **special thanks for his active contribution to the development of winemaking in Slovenia and his outstanding contribution** to the development of the Slovenian Wine Festival. Special thanks were given by the director of the festival, Mr. Tihomir Kovačič and the initiator of the festival Mr. Rado Stojanovič.

Upon receiving the award, Mr. Istenič said: *"Next year it will be 60 years since I have been in the winery and taking care of it. Knowledge acquired in college is not the same as knowledge you receive in real life, and knowledge from the vineyard is also a bit different. More than 54 years have passed since we prepared the first private sparkling wine in Slovenia and the former Yugoslavia, and there was no other for the next 10 years. Later, the field of sparkling wine flourished and today sparkling wine enjoys an exceptional reputation with great importance in culinary and private life. I have decided to retire from very active work and leave the work to young people, but I will still cooperate with advice, because we are learning all our lives, even I still do not know everything. I leave the work and the initiative to the younger generations, and I also thank the Slovenian Wine Festival for everything."*

### **NEW: WORKSHOPS FOR WINEMAKERS**

From the very beginning, the organizers of the festival have tried to offer winemakers not only a place to present their wines to lovers of the noble drop, but also **a place for new business partnerships and new sales channels**. Precisely for this purpose, **two exclusive seminars** will be held within the framework of this year's festival, dedicated to winemakers. **Thursday's seminar** will present **ways to break into the US market**. The representative of the **American agency Marq Wine Group, Ms Julie Peterson**, will be present at the event, who will prepare a lecture on the sustainable growth model on the American market and her experiences with successful wine stories at the Slovenian Wine Festival.

At **Friday's seminar**, the marketing representative from the **Wine Brothers** team, **Rok Bužinel**, will present winemakers with **how they can achieve better promotion and at the same time increase sales in various markets with a presence on social networks**.

### **SAFE WAY HOME FROM THE FESTIVAL**



In order to make the festival event responsible, the **Zavod Varna Pot** will once again warn about a safe way home. To everyone who will enjoy good wine, they recommend: ***Find an alternative form of transport. Ask a sober friend for a ride, use public transportation, or call a taxi. Let the sober get you home!*** Find the promoters of Zavod Varna pot and take a breathalyzer test to check whether it is safe to get behind the wheel, on a bicycle or an electric scooter. **A clear zero, a clear conscience** preserves health and life on our roads. Let's do our part to make **Vision ZERO** a reality - every one of us counts.

This time, the **official transporter** of the festival, **City Taxi**, will also take care of the realization of the vision of zero and a safe way home, offering visitors safe and affordable transport home.

### **TICKETS**

Tickets will be available at the cashiers on the day of the festival.

More about the events and participants on the website of the [Slovenian Wine Festival](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram profile](#).

The Event is part of the [NOVEMBER GOURMET LJUBLJANA](#)

The Organizaer of the Slovenian Wine Festival - [Proevent d.o.o.](#)  
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