

Press release

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The inauguration of the Cité des Climats et vins de Bourgogne enjoys a great success



Bourgogne, 27th June 2023

The Cité des Climats et vins de Bourgogne network, in Chablis, Beaune and Mâcon, was officially inaugurated in mid-June. More than 4,000 people, professionals and amateurs alike, enjoyed 4 days of festivities, featuring numerous highlights that took place simultaneously in the three Cités. 75 winegrowers welcomed visitors on Saturday the 17th and Sunday the 18th of June, demonstrating to visitors the strength of the link between these structuring tools and the wine world.

► 15th and 16th June: two days dedicated to professionals

- **3 inaugural ceremonies, overseen by winegrowers of international renown**

A delegation of institutional representatives, funders, patrons, partners and key players attended the inaugural visits on the 15th and 16th of June in Chablis, Beaune and Macon, together with the presidents of the BIVB, Francois Labet & Laurent Delaunay, and the Cité's president, Benoît de Charette.

Each inauguration featured a visit of the premises and the scenography, and included a speech by the funders, in the presence of:

- Departmental prefects,
- Marie-Guite Dufay, president of the Bourgogne-Franche-Comté region
- Departmental and communal presidents,
- The mayors of Chablis, Beaune and Mâcon

The architects and scenographers also made their own contribution. When the speeches were concluded, the distinguished group proceeded with the traditional and symbolic cutting of the ribbon.



Inauguration Cité Beaune - © Edouard Bar

- **8 famous winegrowers from all over the world invited to share and bear witness**

Guests gathered from other wine regions, both in France and abroad, took part in the inaugural days on the 15th and 16th of June. They were thus able to explain how the Bourgogne model has inspired their *terroir*-based approach.



Vineyards visit in Mercurey-Touches - © Edouard Barra

In addition to their discovery of the 3 Cités, guests enjoyed 2 further events. First, a tasting was organised by the Côte Chalonnaise's ODG organisations, against a backdrop of breathtaking views of the vineyards in Mercurey-Touches, in the Côte Chalonnaise. They were then invited to be guests of honour at a panel discussion organised in the bar of the Cité in Beaune. Hosted by Robin Kick,

Master of Wine, this wonderful event shed an inspiring light on the worldwide influence of Bourgogne's plot-specific wine-growing model. This model is illustrated through the Climats, which are classed as UNESCO World Heritage sites and are at the heart of the Cité des Climats et vins de Bourgogne's mission. These fascinating exchanges demonstrated that the concept of *terroir*, far from being a backward-looking philosophy, rather provides the keys to building the future of viticulture!



Panel discussion Cité Beaune - © Edouard Barra

➔ To see the panel discussion video, [click here](#)

The 8 key players who came especially for the occasion:

- Marie-Thérèse Chappaz, Domaine Chappaz [Valais, Switzerland],
- Jean-Michel Deiss, Domaine Marcel Deiss [Alsace],
- Jaume Gramona, Domaine Gramona [Penedès, Spain]
- Nigel Greening, Felton Road Winery [Central Otago, New Zealand],
- Marcel Guigal, Domaine Guigal [Rhône Valley],
- Alain Moueix, Château Fonroque et Château Mazeyres [Bordeaux],
- Anselme Selosse, Domaine Jacques Selosse [Champagne],
- Aldo Vaira, Domaine Vajra [Barolo, Italy],

- **Open doors for wine and tourism professionals**

Alongside these exciting events, each Cité welcomed wine and tourism professionals: a special occasion that offered a preview of each of the Cités and their visitor trails, as well as the new 45-minute tasting workshops offered by the Ecole des Vins de Bourgogne, and a wine and food pairing session. They were able to share this unique experience with the teams at the Cité des Climats et vins de Bourgogne.

- ▶ **17th and 18th June: a weekend of festivities for the general public.**



Visitor trail Cité Mâcon - © Edouard Barra

The full opening of the network was celebrated with a unique two-day programme for the general public. Visitors were able to navigate the visitor trails of the three Cités, contemplate the progression of building works with a retrospective photo exhibition, chat with the winegrowers while enjoying local food and wine pairings, and even take part in family activities, all within a festive musical atmosphere!

The 45' workshops offered by the Ecole des vins de Bourgogne quickly filled up, a success that bodes well for its future. A central player in wine education within the Cité, with nearly 50 years behind it, the Ecole finally gets the home it deserves!

The summer season has thus opened in the most promising way, given the unanimous positive feedback from visitors at the end of this inaugural weekend!

➔ Discover the Cité's summer programme: [click here](#)



Winemakers Cité Mâcon - © Edouard Barra



Music band Cité Chablis - © Edouard Barra



Children's activities Cité Beaune - © Edouard Barra

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