



Press Release  
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## 5StarWines & Wine Without Walls returns to Vinitaly 2023 with the expertise of a renewed panel of General Chairs

The seventh edition of 5StarWines & Wine Without Walls, the selection of wines organized by Veronafi and Vinitaly, will be held from 28 to 30 March 2023 in the days preceding Vinitaly. Participating wines will be evaluated by an international jury of high-profile wine professionals, including the six General Chairs who will ultimately determine the winning wines.



In the picture: *The General Chairs of 5StarWines & Wine Without Walls 2022 with Stevie Kim, Managing Director of Vinitaly International* (from left to right: Pedro Ballesteros Torres MW, Gabriele Gorelli MW, Daniele Cernilli, Caro Maurer MW, Stevie Kim, Robert Joseph, and Bernard Burtschy).

[www.5starwines.it](http://www.5starwines.it)



This year marks the seventh edition of 5StarWines & Wine Without Walls, an event organized annually by Veronafiere and Vinitaly. The event is divided into three days of blind tasting, during which a jury of international experts assigns a score and a tasting note to each wine. The tasting concludes with the selection of top wines and culminates with the publication of the guide "5StarWines - the Book". The Book collates all the wines that receive a score equal to or greater than 90/100 and includes a tasting note for each wine written by the judges in English with the aim of promoting the wines internationally.

More than 75 sector experts from different parts of the world gathered in Verona to taste the wines presented at the last edition of 5StarWines & Wine Without Walls. The diverse origin and background of each judge is the basis of the international character and objectivity of the Selection. In fact, participating companies have the opportunity to have their wines tasted by Masters of Wine, Master Sommeliers, WSET graduates, Vinitaly International Experts and Ambassadors, journalists and other important figures in the sector, who express a judgment based on an objective olfactory taste analysis. Confirmation of the final scores is up to the Panel Chairs, who confirm or modify the judgment assigned by the various panels to the wines that have obtained a score of 90 or more and produce the tasting notes that will be published in the Guide.

The role of the General Chairs Jury, the backbone of the Selection, is to provide a further level of rigor and objectivity to the Selection, discussing the wines tasted in such a way as to reach a harmonious verdict.

Caro Maurer MW, General Chair, summarizes the work of the Jury in this sentence: *«This team works like a quantum computer of the future, collaborating to join memory and common sense, with a great processing capacity. We know each other very well, appreciate each other, get to taste with the knowledge that we work together and, if in any doubt, no matter how small it is, we count on the expert advice of our peers.»*

The General Chairs panel for the 2023 edition of 5StarWines & Wine Without Walls is made up of the same group of six renowned judges who featured in the last edition. Among these, **Pedro Ballesteros Torres MW**, Master of Wine and Vinitaly International Ambassador; **Robert Joseph**, editorial consultant for Meininger's Wine Business International and **Bernard Burtschy**, columnist for Le Figaro, has been present since the first edition of the Selection held in 2017. Also renewing their participation **Daniele Cernilli**, wine critic and managing director of DoctorWine, participating in his fifth edition, and **Gabriele Gorelli MW**, first Master of Wine in Italy, brand ambassador and strategic consultant, in his fourth edition. **Caro Maurer MW**, the first female Master of Wine in German-speaking countries, confirms her participation for the second consecutive year.

In conclusion, the General Chairs Jury reflects the international character of the Selection, bringing together professionals of different generations and backgrounds who share wine expertise and passion for the sector. Participating in 5StarWines & Wine Without Walls is a great opportunity for wineries that want to receive an evaluation and feedback from an exceptional jury and promote their wines on an international scale within the context of Vinitaly. It is possible to register wines on the official website of the event until 24 February at: <https://registration.5starwines.it/en>. Wineries that register by December 19th can enjoy an "Early Bird" discount of 15% on the basic rate.

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**About:** [5StarWines – the Book](#) is the annual wine selection organized by Veronafiere, held in the lead-up to the biggest Italian wine fair in the world. The event is now in its seventh edition. 5StarWines – the Book is a blind tasting aimed at shedding light on wineries investing in the improvement of their products. During the event, a highly qualified panel of wine professionals will taste and score — using a 100-point scale — participating wines. In the 2022 edition, over 2,300 wines



took part in the competition and 960 were selected for inclusion in 5StarWines – the Book. The Guide is a useful tool both on the promotional and commercial side. It introduces international buyers and wine lovers to new wine products of great value. It guarantees wine quality and it maintains and certifies their value at an international level.