

PRESS RELEASE
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75th SAINT-VINCENT TOURNANTE AT VEZELAY

Photo: Aurélien Ibanez

Vézelay to host the 2019 Saint-Vincent Tournante !

The 2018 Saint-Vincent itinerant wine festival, hosted on the 27th and 28th of January last by the villages of the Saint-Véran communal appellation, was a great success once again. As tradition demands, immediately after the investiture ceremony Vincent Barbier, Grand Maître of the Confrérie des Chevaliers du Tastevin, announced the venue of the 2019 Saint-Vincent Tournante.

It's official: Vézelay, granted AOC status in 2017, will host the 2019 Saint-Vincent Tournante on the 26th and 27th of January next year. Following in the footsteps of Chablis in 1976 and 1999 and Irancy in 2016, Vézelay will be the third village in the Yonne to welcome the festival.

There have been vines at Vézelay since Gallo-Roman times (the end of the first century). In the 18th century, the vineyards covered 500 hectares. But the arrival of phylloxera in 1884 almost wiped out the vines entirely. By the end of the nineteen-sixties, only one or two meagre hectares remained.

More than two decades have passed since a group of twenty or so winegrowers began cultivating vines again on the hills dominated by the famous basilica, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1979. Lovers of Burgundy's fine wines are cordially invited to discover for themselves this promising newcomer. Vinified exclusively in white, the appellation's one hundred hectares are planted between 190 and 330 metres on steep slopes facing south- south east.

The winegrowers and villagers of Vézelay have secretly been preparing for the festival for several months now. One can already picture the stately procession of magnificent banners and statues making its way through the vines to the summit of "la colline éternelle" (the eternal hill).



Matthieu Woilliez, president of the Bourgogne-Vézelay winegrowers association, association delegates and the Grand Conseil of the Chevaliers du Tastevin at Prissé, in the Mâconnais, on Saturday January 27th 2018.