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## **Charter of the Commanderies de Bordeaux**

It seemed appropriate, considering the experience we have acquired, to set out precisely the methods of organisation and functioning of the Commanderies.

As a result, the present Charter was approved at the last General Meeting of the GCVB held on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018 and appended to the Articles of Association.

At the suggestion of the Conseil Privé of the GCVB, these regulations will be able to be subject to all modifications as part of the statutory rules of the GCVB.

### ***ARTICLE 1 - CREATION NAMING***

On the initiative of the Grand Conseil du Vin de Bordeaux, a non-profit making association is hereby created with the name of "Commanderie de Bordeaux in ....., hereinafter referred to as the Commanderie. It will carry out its role as part of this Charter, in the city, region or country aforementioned.

When several Commanderies exist in the same country or group of countries, they can be grouped together within a National or Territorial Council, with the protection of the longest existing Commanderie or any other, after agreement by all of the Commanderies located in one same country or group of countries. This National or Territorial Council will bring together the Maîtres of Commandries, as well as members appointed by their Commanderie.

## **ARTICLE 2 - OBJECTIVES**

1. While carrying out the role for which it was created, the Commanderie must comply with the rules and traditions of the French associations, whose objective is to develop the appreciation and prestige of Bordeaux wines. The Commanderie can grant to these associations open and friendly cooperation, therefore ensuring a link between Bordeaux wine enthusiasts in France and in the countries concerned.
2. Without, however, restraining the generality of the terms used above in the present Article, the aims of the Commanderie are the following:
  - a) To pay tribute to Bordeaux Wines, to introduce them to the greatest possible number of people, by inspiring respect and merit for them, and by encouraging their healthy, moderate consumption.
  - b) To perpetuate the history and cultural traditions of Bordeaux and its region through its wines and promote better understanding and appreciation of them, in particular by organising conferences, informative open days and trips to Bordeaux.
  - c) To promote and encourage fraternal relations between members of the Commanderie and other members of the Grand Conseil du Vin de Bordeaux, namely, for instance, the Commanderies de Bordeaux abroad and the Wine Brotherhoods.
  - d) To promote the harmonisation of Bordeaux wine tasting with the specificities of the region or of the country concerned.
  - e) To organise "*Chapitres*" - induction ceremonies and gala events, be at the initiative of meetings, tastings, meals and other events which will be open to a great number of people, in order to ensure the renown of Bordeaux wines.
3. The Commanderie has no profit-making aim and any eventual profits made by the Commanderie cannot be allocated to the advantage of any member.
4. The Commanderie abstains from any religious or political activity.

## **ARTICLE 3 - ORGANISATION**

The Commanderie is comprised of members, Emeritus members and junior members.

The Commanderie is administered by a Board.

## **ARTICLE 4 - MEMBERS**

1. Credentials: Any person of adult age, of good character and reputation, who is interested in Bordeaux wines, who is committed to defending and promoting them, can become a member of the Commanderie.
2. Election of members: The appointment of a person as new member of the Commanderie is made upon a proposal from at least two (2) members and is confirmed by a minimum of two thirds (2/3) of members of the Board present, using their right to vote. The election is done by a show of hands, unless with the approval of the same majority of the members of the council, the election is voted by secret ballot. Every elected member becomes a Commandeur.
3. Commandeur Emérite: The Board can suggest at the General Meeting of the Commanderie, the appointment of certain Commandeurs as Emeritus members, as a show of thanks and appreciation for services rendered and dedication to the Commanderie and to Bordeaux wines.
4. Junior member: On the suggestion of two members of the Commanderie, the Board can appoint junior members. These must make the same commitments as a member. They only have an advisory vote and cannot be elected to the Board. They must pay a specific subscription fee, to be fixed by the Commanderie. In similar circumstances, junior members, aged less than 35, can be appointed.
5. Change of Commanderie: At the suggestion of its Commanderie of origin, members who change city, region or country, can be admitted, with induction, as members of the Commanderie of their new place of residence. They must accept all of its rules.
6. Suspension - Expulsion: Any member of the Commanderie is susceptible to suspension or expulsion in the event of any breach of the rules of the Charter or any rule promulgated by the Board, or for conduct that is prejudicial to the interests of the Commanderie. Suspension or expulsion requires endorsement by two thirds (2/3) of the members of the Board using their right to vote at a meeting duly convened for this purpose. Any procedure aiming for the suspension or expulsion of a member, must comply with the principles of justice.
7. Resignation: Any member of the Commanderie can resign at any time from his duties or as member of the Commanderie. Such a resignation must be submitted in writing and take effect at the date specified in the letter. A letter of resignation as member of the Commanderie can only take effect once the person resigning is freed from all commitments to the Commanderie.

## **ARTICLE 5 - THE COMMANDERIE'S BOARD**

- ✓ The Commanderie is directed and managed by a Board comprised of at least five (5) people, elected by all the members of the Commanderie, gathered for a General Meeting. One third of the members of the Board can be replaced annually.
- ✓ The Maître (a man or a woman) of the Commanderie is rightfully a member of the Board.

In the event of the prolonged absence of a member of the Board, the said Board will be able to proceed, without consultation, in finding a replacement by co-optating a member of the Commanderie. The appointment must be ratified at the following General Meeting.

- ✓ Board Meetings are held at the request of the Maître (a man or a woman) or by two members of the Board, **at least twice a year**, by written or verbal notification.
- ✓ Any Board meeting will produce a report, the minutes of the meeting, kept at the disposal of the Grand Conseil du Vin de Bordeaux.
- ✓ The Board establishes the budget, suggests the subscriptions and activities which will be approved at the General Meeting.
- ✓ The Board ensures that "*Chapitres*" - induction ceremonies followed by gala events, are organised correctly and in compliance with the induction protocol published by the Grand Conseil du Vin de Bordeaux, which is the same for all of the Commanderies de Bordeaux throughout the world.

## **ARTICLE 6 - TITLES, DUTIES, RESPONSABILITIES, RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES**

### **1. The Maître (a man or a woman):**

The Commanderie is directed by a Maître, authorised by the Grand Conseil du Vin de Bordeaux, on a proposal from the Commanderie's Board. His mandate will be renewable according to the rules of the Commanderie. Exceptionally, by dispensation from the GCVB, it can be renewed 5 (five) times, but in no circumstance can it exceed 15 (fifteen) years, being agreed that after the age of 75, it will no longer be possible to have access to this role.

Applications approved by the Commanderie's Board will be sent to the Grand Conseil du Vin de Bordeaux, at least 4 months prior to the date of the nomination or its renewal.

A Maître can only be appointed after authorisation from the Grand Conseil du Vin de Bordeaux. He or she is received by the Grand Conseil du Vin de Bordeaux, during his or her nomination, as "Conseiller du Vin de Bordeaux". He or she is then presented with a diploma and the insignia.

The Maître must fulfil the usual responsibilities of a president. He/She is rightfully a member of the Board of the Commanderie he/she manages, as well as meetings of the members. He/She benefits from a casting vote, in the event of votes being of equal number.

He/she is responsible for the general management of the Commanderie's affairs, in accordance with directives given by his Board and general guidance provided by the Grand Conseil du Vin de Bordeaux.

In no case, may he/she draw financial or material profit from his/her role.

## 2. Other titles and duties:

The titles and duties set out below, can be assigned to members of the Commanderie, elected, co-opted or appointed by the General Meeting or Board of the Commanderie.

a) Vices Maîtres or Régents:

They are elected by the Board of the Commanderie and are responsible by delegation, to replace the Maître in his role. They must also carry out assignments requested of them by the Board.

b) Chancelier or Secretary: He drafts the report/minutes of Board meetings and General Meetings, by issuing all necessary notices. He must also carry out the duties and powers prescribed by the Board from time to time.

He is required to send to the Grand Conseil du Vin de Bordeaux, during the month of January:

- ✓ The reports/minutes from General Meetings within the 2 months following any such meeting,
- ✓ The schedule of events planned by the Commanderie, with the aim of harmonising activities,
- ✓ The list of members of the Commanderie, updated on 31<sup>st</sup> December each year, to keep the Grand Conseil's file up to date.

c) Grand Argentier or Grand Trésorier: He fulfils the duties of a treasurer. He ensures good financial management of the Commanderie's funds and is responsible for keeping its accounts. He must submit a financial report at each annual General Meeting of the Commanderie.

d) Vinothécaire: He is responsible for the wines of the Commanderie. He must take care of orders, transport, delivery and optimal conservation of wines purchased or obtained by the Commanderie. He must also carry out the duties and powers prescribed by the Board from time to time. He can be a wine professional.

e) Héraut or Maître de Requêtes: He presents the applicants during the Commanderies' induction ceremonies and promulgates all the rules of procedure, including those related to the service and tasting of the Commanderie's wines, specific to ensuring that the traditions and ceremonies pertaining to these are upheld.

f) Other roles such as Prévôt, can be carried out by members of the Commanderie or the Board.

g) Among the members of the Board, it will be planned that one person will be responsible for information and communication, and will be the correspondent of the Grand Conseil du Vin de Bordeaux concerning all matters relating to the Commanderie's activities.

## ***ARTICLE 7 - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE***

The Executive Committee of the Board or committee can be constituted to carry out day-to-day business in compliance with the general directives of the Board.

In principle, it is comprised of the Maître, the Vice-Maître, the Secrétaire and the Trésorier, and members appointed to this committee.

## ***ARTICLE 8 - GENERAL MEETING***

The Board must convene an Annual General Meeting of the members of the Commanderie. This General Meeting must be held no later than 1<sup>st</sup> June each year. Invitations to attend this Annual General Meeting must be sent by letter at least 15 days before the scheduled date, and must present the agenda of the meeting.

The Board can also convene by letter at least 15 days before the scheduled date, Extraordinary General Meetings for specific purposes stipulated in the invitation notice.

## ***ARTICLE 9 - QUORUM***

If it takes place, 3 members of the Executive Committee form a quorum.

A majority of the members of the Board, present or represented, form a quorum at meetings of the Board.

A fixed number, 30% minimum, of members present or represented, according to the Commanderie rule, form a quorum for each General Meeting.

## ***ARTICLE 10 - NUMBER OF MEMBERS***

The number of Commanderie members has no limitation.

In the event of an excessive number of members, the Grand Conseil du Vin de Bordeaux, in agreement with the Commanderie concerned, can decide to create another Commanderie, by dividing the area of activity, in which case a National or Territorial Council can be created.

The minimum number of members must be in relation to the territorial representation of the Commanderie and cannot be less than 15 members.

## ***ARTICLE 11 - CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF THE COMMANDERIES DE BORDEAUX***

A person representing the Grand Conseil du Vin de Bordeaux, the Maître (a man or a woman) of the Commanderie will be part of the Consultative Meeting of the Commanderies du Vin de Bordeaux.

Bringing together all the Maîtres of Commanderies de Bordeaux and Grand Maîtres of National or Territorial Councils around the world, this meeting is held in Bordeaux every four years, at the initiative of the Grand Conseil.

Directed by the Grand Maître of the GCVB, this meeting is the element for consultation and a link between the Commanderies and the Grand Conseil du Vin de Bordeaux.

All the Commanderies must be represented by the Maître. In the event that he or she is unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances, he or she can delegate a member of the Board as a replacement.

## ***ARTICLE 12 - MEANS***

The resources of the Commanderie are those generated by subscriptions, various events, donations, legacies... The Board sets the amount of the annual subscription, as well as the contribution requested from new members.

These subscriptions must be accepted at the General Meeting of each Commanderie.

An annual subscription of 30 Euros per Commandeur is due to the Grand Conseil du Vin de Bordeaux. This sum is approved at the General Meeting of the GCVB in its call for subscriptions.

## ***ARTICLE 13 - NON-PAYMENT***

If a situation of non-payment is drawn up with respect to the Commanderie, the Grand Conseil du Vin de Bordeaux, after consultation with the members of the Commanderie, can withdraw its authorisation and proceed with its dissolution.

## ***ARTICLE 14 - DISSOLUTION***

Following the dissolution of the Commanderie, in agreement with the Grand Conseil du Vin de Bordeaux, its assets will be transferred and given to a philanthropic institution chosen and nominated by the Commanderie.

## ***ARTICLE 15 - REGISTRATION***

As proof of its legal existence, the Commanderie must file and request the official registration of its Charter, in compliance with the customs of its state or country. A copy of these official documents will be sent to the Grand Conseil du Vin de Bordeaux.

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