



Grand Conseil du Vin de Bordeaux

1 cours du XXX Juillet - 33000 Bordeaux

Tél : (33) 05 56 00 21 93

E-mail contact@gcvb.fr – www.gcvb.fr

Charter of the Commanderies de Bordeaux

ARTICLE 1 - ESTABLISHMENT AND NAME

At the initiative of the Grand Conseil du Vin de Bordeaux, a non-profit association is hereby established, designated by the name "Commanderie de Bordeaux à", hereinafter referred to as the Commanderie. It will carry out its mission within the framework of this Charter in the aforementioned city, region, or country.

When several Commanderies exist in the same country or group of countries, these may unite within a National or Territorial Council, under the aegis of the longest-existing Commanderie. This National or Territorial Council will bring together the Maîtres of the Commanderies as well as members appointed by their respective Commanderies.

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. Honorary Commandeur: At the initiative of the Council and to allow the Commanderie to benefit from the presence of representative individuals, the title of Honorary Commandeur may be conferred. These individuals may participate in the activities of the Commanderie, but may not assume any responsibility or have any voting rights.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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-opting 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 presided over by a Maître (a man or a woman) accredited by the Grand Conseil du Vin de Bordeaux, upon the recommendation of the Commanderie Council. His/her term of office is renewable according to the Commanderie's rules, but in no case can it exceed 15 years, with the understanding that after the age of 75, it is no longer possible to hold this position. In the case of a National or Territorial Council, it may be presided over by a Grand Maître (a man or a woman).

Applications approved by the Commanderie Council must be submitted to the Grand Conseil du Vin de Bordeaux **at least 4 months** before the date of appointment or renewal.

A Maître (a man or a woman) may only be appointed after accreditation by the Grand Conseil du Vin de Bordeaux. Upon appointment, he/she is received by the Grand Conseil du Vin de Bordeaux Wines as a "Conseiller du Vin de Bordeaux." A diploma and medallion are then presented.

The Maître must fulfil the usual responsibilities of a president. He/she is rightfully a member of the Board of the Commanderie that he/she manages, as well as meetings of the members. He/she has 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.

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) Vice-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:

- ✓ 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 31st December each year, to keep the Grand Conseil's files up to date.
- ✓ The annual membership fee **(40,20 Euros per Commandeur), which must be paid before December 31st.**
(The membership fee collection notice to the Commanderies is sent out during the second half of the year.)

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 1st 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 3 or 4 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 (a man or a woman). 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 – FINANCIAL 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.

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.

* * * * *