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## International Jeunes Sommeliers Competition Report

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### Washington DC, USA, October 2013

For the first time in the history of the competition, the USA hosted the International Jeunes Sommeliers Competition Final. Washington, D.C. welcomed nine sommeliers to the finals, representing Australia, China, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, South Africa, Turkey and the USA.

For the young sommeliers, the programme began a few days before the competition itself, giving them to opportunity to overcome jet lag and see some of the sights of Washington, D.C. These included a visit to RdV Vineyards in Delaplane, Virginia and dinner at The Blue Duck Tavern, across the street from the host hotel, the Fairmont Georgetown.

During the competition the young sommeliers were tested on their service skills, practical knowledge, and blind tasting ability. Judges for the event included Brian Julyan MS, CEO/Founder, Court of Master Sommeliers; Bryan Dawes MS, Education Chair of the Court of Master Sommeliers; Frank Kämmer MS, Director, Court of Master Sommeliers; and Kathy Morgan MS, Sommelier at Bryan Voltaggio's Range, Chevy Chase, Maryland, USA.

Chief Judge Julyan noted the contestants' skills and knowledge were the best yet. "Today we've seen some outstanding service from these young people."

The winners' medals and awards were presented on Friday evening at a gala event held in the French Embassy. The ceremony was presided over by Marie Jones, International Vice-President, with the support of Grand Argentier Joseph M Girard, Chair, International Jeunes Sommeliers Competition Committee with fellow committee members, Klaus Tritschler and George H. Brown, Jr.

Loïc Avril, representing the Bailliage of Great Britain was named as the winner. Bobby Conroy, representing the USA finished in second place and third place was awarded to Jarrod Mills of Australia.

In addition to the Glass Trophy and Champagne Sabre for the winner and competition medals for the runners-up and all other competitors, cash prizes were awarded for the first time to the top three Sommeliers. The new award is to be known as the Peter Jones Award and was proposed by Marie Jones in memory of her late husband. Marie is sponsoring an annual 1,000 euro cash prize for the winner and Joseph M Girard is sponsoring the runner-up with an annual 500 euro prize. A permanent sponsor is sought for the third prize of 250 euro. This year it was sponsored by committee member Klaus Tritschler.

Cindy Eisenmenger  
Chargée de Presse, Bailliage of USA