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## International Jeunes Sommeliers Competition Report

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### Frankfurt, Germany, September 2007

After months of meticulous planning, the inaugural International Jeunes Sommeliers Competition that took place on September 7th in Frankfurt during the Grand Chapitre of Germany, was a great success.

Eight young Sommeliers had qualified to compete and after a gruelling day of testing their knowledge and skills, Drew Hendricks, representing the Bailliage of the USA, was declared the winner at the Awards and Induction Dinner held in conjunction with the presentations to the Jeunes Commis Rôtisseurs. In Second place was Canada's Lianne Castravelli with Norman Schmidt from Germany in Third.

Drew Hendricks received an engraved trophy and Gold Medal. The Second and Third Place winners received engraved Silver and Bronze Medals respectively.

On the day before the competition, under the guidance of Natalie Lump, Echanson: Germany and Officier Barbara Tritschler, competitors, judges, members and guests enjoyed a pleasant visit to the Schloss Vollrads wine estate where everyone was welcomed with a glass of delicious Sekt by Dr. Rowald Hepp, the Managing Director.

Dr Hepp then passed the role of guide to one of his assistants who led everyone to a wine tasting in the midst of the vines. A wonderful experience as not only the wine could be savoured but also the grapes! The winery had also arranged a special visit for the Jeunes Sommeliers to view the modern corking machine using glass 'corks'. Quite an innovation in the field of wine bottling that was of high interest to the young specialists.

The competition, structured in three parts: theory, service and blind tasting, was administered by the Court of Master Sommeliers and the judges were all Master Sommeliers: two from Germany, with one each from France, Great Britain and the United States.

The Jeunes Sommeliers Committee of Chair, Grand Argentier Joseph M Girard, and members, Claes Andersen, Dan Gulbronsen and Klaus Tritschler, have created a solid base from which we can anticipate growth in the number of participating National Bailliages in future competitions. I congratulate them on a job well done!

The Competition has at last brought to prominence that the enjoyment of wine is a significant part of our Confrérie. It is with much anticipation that we now look forward to September 2008 and the 2nd Annual Competition in Paris.

Marie Jones  
Managing Editor, Chaîne International Magazine  
Member of the Conseil d'Administration