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# Yvette van der Merwe encouraged participants of the World Wine Congress to discuss current issues in the industry

The president of the OIV emphasizes the importance of international cooperation in addressing shared challenges

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Yvette van der Merwe, presidenta de la OIV

The 46th World Congress of Vine and Wine will take place in Chișinău, Republic of Moldova, from June 16 to 20, 2025. This event marks a significant moment for Moldova, a country with a winemaking tradition that dates back thousands of years. Over recent decades, Moldova has emerged as one of Europe's most dynamic wine regions, blending ancient practices with modern innovation. The country now stands as the 19th largest wine producer globally and exports 85% of its wine to 70 countries.

The congress is organized under the auspices of the International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV), bringing together experts, researchers, scientists, oenologists, producers, and wine enthusiasts from around the world. The gathering aims to address current challenges in the industry and discuss the future of viticulture and winemaking. Attendees will have the opportunity to explore Moldova's indigenous grape varieties and taste award-winning wines that have gained international recognition.

Ludmila Catlabuga, Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry of the Republic of Moldova, welcomed participants by highlighting the honor of hosting such a prestigious event. She emphasized Moldova's commitment to both tradition and innovation in winemaking. Catlabuga noted that the congress is not only a forum for exchanging knowledge but also a promise to advance sustainability, scientific progress, and respect for heritage in the wine sector. She invited guests to experience Moldovan hospitality and discover why the country's wines are considered "unexpectedly great."

Yvette van der Merwe, President of the OIV, also extended an invitation to the global wine community. She praised Moldova's growth in the wine sector and its role as a beacon for innovation and tradition. Van der Merwe stressed that the congress will provide a platform for dialogue on scientific advancements and sustainable practices. She expressed hope that this gathering would strengthen international collaboration and help shape a resilient future for the industry.

The choice of Chișinău as host city reflects Moldova's deep connection to viticulture. Vineyards in the region have been cultivated for generations, making winemaking an integral part of local culture and identity. The congress will feature discussions on new technologies, market trends, environmental challenges, and opportunities for global

cooperation.

Moldova’s wine industry has undergone significant transformation over the past decade. Investments in technology and quality control have led to international awards and growing demand in foreign markets. Despite its small size, Moldova has managed to carve out a niche by focusing on unique grape varieties such as Feteasca Neagră and Rara Neagră, which are increasingly recognized by sommeliers worldwide.

The event is expected to attract hundreds of delegates from across continents. Participants will visit local wineries, attend tastings, and engage in technical sessions covering topics from vineyard management to climate adaptation strategies. Organizers hope that these exchanges will foster new partnerships and inspire further innovation.

As preparations continue throughout 2024 and into early 2025, Moldovan authorities are working closely with industry stakeholders to ensure a successful congress. The government sees this event as an opportunity not only to showcase its wines but also to promote tourism and cultural exchange.

The 46th World Congress of Vine and Wine promises to be a milestone for both Moldova and the international wine community. By bringing together leaders from across the sector in Chișinău next June, organizers aim to set new directions for sustainable growth while celebrating the enduring legacy of winemaking in one of Europe’s oldest viticultural regions.