vinetur

Future of Wine in Focus as 46th World Congress Opens in Moldova

International experts gather in Chișinău to discuss innovation, sustainability, and resilience in the face of shifting production and consumption trends

Monday, June 16, 2025



The 46th World Congress of Vine and Wine began today in Chișinău, Republic of Moldova, bringing together experts, researchers, producers, and policymakers from around the world. The event, which runs from June 16 to June 20, marks the first time Moldova has hosted the congress. It also signals the start of a new century for the

International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV), which is leading discussions on research, innovation, and international cooperation in the sector.

The opening ceremony was attended by Moldovan President Maia Sandu, Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry Ludmila Catlabuga, Director of the National Office of Vine and Wine Ștefan Iamandi, OIV President Yvette van der Merwe, and OIV Director General John Barker. Their presence highlighted the importance of this event for both Moldova and the global wine community.

President Sandu addressed the audience by emphasizing Moldova's commitment to developing its wine industry and increasing its international profile. She pointed to the revival of local grape varieties such as Feteasca Albă, Feteasca Neagră, Rara Neagră, Viorica, and Floricica. According to Sandu, these varieties are now recognized internationally and have become a source of national pride.

The congress is being held under the theme "Shaping the Future of Vine and Wine: Embracing Resilience, Elevating Value, Fostering Innovation." Delegates from 51 OIV member countries are participating alongside representatives from other nations involved in vine and wine research. The event aims to address current challenges facing the sector, including climate change, changing consumption patterns, and economic pressures. Organizers say these challenges also present opportunities for reinvention through technical innovation, stronger connections with consumers and society, and a focus on environmental responsibility.

OIV President Yvette van der Merwe spoke about Moldova's deep connection to wine. She noted that in Moldova, wine is more than just a product—it is part of the national identity. Van der Merwe also stressed that excellence in winemaking is not limited by geography or culture but can be found across different regions and communities worldwide. She said that diversity is one of the strengths of the OIV as an international organization.

OIV Director General John Barker called for greater cooperation and reliance on science to address shared challenges in the sector. He said that for over a century, cooperation and science have been central to the OIV's mission. Barker emphasized that no single country or region has all the answers and that scientific research will be key to finding

solutions for the future.

During the congress, the OIV released updated global grape production data for 2024. The figures show that climate change has had a significant impact on reducing global wine production. Economic and social factors have also contributed to a decline in global wine consumption. Despite these challenges, wine exports have remained steady in both volume and value.

The congress also highlighted trends in other grape sectors. Table grape production and consumption continue to grow worldwide, driven largely by demand from China and ongoing product innovation. Dried grape production remains stable according to OIV data.

The 46th World Congress of Vine and Wine will continue throughout the week with presentations, discussions, and networking opportunities focused on advancing research and promoting sustainable growth in the vine and wine industry. Participants are expected to share knowledge on best practices while exploring new strategies for resilience and innovation in response to global changes affecting viticulture and winemaking.