



Communiqué de l'Association de la Sommellerie Internationale (ASI)

ASI (Association de la Sommellerie Internationale) Press release

As of 2007, a splinter group of associations from 3 countries decided to resign their membership in ASI, the international association gathering representative Professional Sommelier Associations worldwide and associate member of OIV. They went on to set up a body called WSA and began to organize international sommelier competitions for their members, mainly Italian sommeliers working in foreign countries.

As we believe internal sommelier competitions to be a path towards excellence in the field of Sommellerie, we would like to make sure every stakeholder in the wine, service and hospitality industry is well aware that there is no link whatsoever between the 12 best sommelier of the world contests organized by ASI from its creation in 1969 in Belgium to 2007 in Greece and the event recently hosted in Rome by WSA.

On the 19th of May 2008, a Best Sommelier of Europe contest organized by ASI in Sofia, Bulgaria gathered 30 national candidates from the 36 members and associate member associations of ASI in Europe. **Isa Bal**, from Turkey, won the competition with **Paolo Basso** from Switzerland coming second and **Eric Zwiebel** from France being third.

As this compares with a "world competition" gathering 14 candidates, we would like to avoid confusion between WSA internal events and the legitimate Best Sommeliers of the World and Best sommeliers of Europe, working every day to promote excellence in service alongside the best Chefs and the most outstanding wine producers worldwide.

We owe it to generations of sommeliers that strove for excellence in their field and to the young sommeliers of our more than **45 members and observer members** who have a dream, the dream to follow in the footsteps of **Andreas Larsson**, best sommelier of the world (2007), when ASI organizes its next world competition in 2010, in Chile.

If you need more information, please consult our website (<http://www.sommellerie-internationale.com/>)

ASI Best sommeliers of the world

1969	Armand Melkonian
1971	Piero Sattanino
1978	Giuseppe Vaccarini
1983	Jean Luc Pouteau
1986	Jean Claude Jambon
1989	Serge Dubs

1992	Philippe Faure Brac
1995	Shinya Tasaki
1998	Markus del Monego
2000	Olivier Poussier
2004	Enrico Bernardo
2007	Andreas Larsson

Kazuyoshi KOGAI

President of Association de la Sommellerie Internationale

