

**The Official Selection, the heart of Merano Wine Festival, where you can learn about the stories of excellence that have received The WineHunter Award**

Taking place at the Kurhaus from 9 to 11 November will be Wine - The Official Selection, based on a year-long search by the WineHunter Helmuth Köcher. Food Spirits Beer - The Official Selection, Territorium & Consortium and Spirits&Mixing, due to be held in the GourmetArena from 8 to 11 November, will offer a look at food and wine products.

**Merano, 25 October 2019** – “*Excellence is an attitude*”. The motto of the WineHunter and patron of the event Helmuth Köcher perfectly interprets the constant search for excellence that has made the **Merano WineFestival** a highly prestigious event in the world of wine. **The Official Selection** and the **GourmetArena**, based on a voyage at the discovery of fine wine and food, are central to the event in Merano where the selection of best **products given The Rosso, Gold and Platinum WineHunter Award** is presented.

These stories of excellence sought, discovered and selected by **Helmuth Köcher**, the famous patron of the Merano WineFestival, in collaboration with selected tasting committees from around Italy, will star at the **Kurhaus from 9 to 11 November**. The grand Liberty-style building will therefore be turned into a place where you can meet quality producers and taste the best wines of Italy and other countries. Making their **first appearance** at this 28th edition will be the **Vino in Anfora WineHunter Area** (23 wines), a niche that promotes wines aged in the most time-honoured way; the **Vino in Vulcano WineHunter Area** (28 wines), a space dedicated to products that reveal the intense energy of their volcanic origins; and the WineHunter Area (330 wines), that offers a selection of the new wines receiving The WineHunter Award on the stage at the Kurhaus this year. There will also be **Wine International** (83 producers), an area dedicated entirely to wines from the best wine-producing areas in the world; and the **Union des Grands Crus de Bordeaux** (13 producers), an area where ancient Châteaux offer their most prestigious products for tasting, speaking of a culture of wine-making that has been handed down unchanged for decades. Not to be missed are the **New Entries** (47 producers of Northern, Central and Southern Italy and its Islands), held in Sala Czerny on 9, 10 and 11 November, with wineries taking part in the Merano WineFestival for the first time; the **Old Vintage Collections**, with individual tasting tables at which companies will present bottles of wine aged 10 years or more; and, finally, **Dulcis In Fundo** (13 producers) in the Pavillon des Fleurs. Both the latter events will be held on Monday 11 November. Still at the Kurhaus, the **Kursaal** will pay tribute to **Leonardo Da Vinci** on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of his death, dedicating an exclusive space to his passion for oenology and his search for excellence in the field of wine.

Unique and fine food and wine products can instead be found in the adjacent **GourmetArena**, where it is possible to taste the products of Culinaria, Beerpassion and Aquavitae, and in the Spirits&Mixing area with its Cocktail Bar, new this year. Here, from 8 to 11 November, two special sections called **Territorium** and **Consortium** will present some of the most beautiful and finest regions of Italy such as Campania, Abruzzo and Lombardy, through their respective Protection Associations and Consortia.

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