

#SOMMELIER2019

10-15 MARCH



Belgische
Sommeliersgilde
sinds 1963

SOMMELIER2019
BELGIUM – ANTWERP

ASI ASSOCIATION DE LA SOMMELLERIE INTERNATIONALE

The ASI is a non-profit organization founded in Reims (France) on June 3 - 4 1969.

- Brings together 62 national sommelier associations from across all continents (APEC, EMEA and Americas).
- Coordinates actions aimed at developing and advancing the profession of sommelier by various means (training courses, etc.)
- Enhances the sommelier's profession as well as educating the consumer.
- Defends the ethics of the profession.



CONCOURS DU MEILLEUR SOMMELIER DU MONDE 2019

The Belgian Sommelier guild was able to convince the ASI during their general meeting in Belgrade to host the **16th edition** of the international '**Concours du Meilleur Sommelier du Monde**' in 2019 in **Antwerp**. Belgium competed against France that candidates itself with Bordeaux. 23 country votes gave **preference to Belgium** to host against only 16 for France.

The world championship is an initiative from the **Association de la Sommellerie Internationale** and awards every 3 year the best sommelier of the world. The association was founded by 4 countries of which Belgium was one that also hosted the first world championship.

This international event gets lots of **international attention** as the 65 contestants travel together to this event with journalists and professionals from the hotel/restaurant business world.

They give a lot of **exposure** of both the concours as the **country** in which the competition takes place. The restaurant and hotelier sector attaches **great importance** to the title of best sommelier in the world, which results in the events being **highly regarded worldwide**. In 2013 our own Belgian contestant Aristide Spies became 3rd which was the **highest ranking for Belgium** so far during the Concours.



ANTWERPEN ONTVANGT WERELDKAMPIONSCHAP VOOR SOMMELIERS

Antwerpen wordt in 2019 de gaststad van het Concours du Meilleur Sommelier du Monde, een wereldkampioenschap voor sommeliers. Dat heeft de Association de la Sommellerie Internationale zondag beslist in Belgrado.

Antwerpen haalde het van de Franse wijnstad Bordeaux met 23 stemmen tegen 17. Het prestigieuze toernooi wordt om de drie jaar georganiseerd. De kandidaten moeten actief zijn in een restaurant, wijnbar, wijnproeverij of de enogastronomische sector.



A SIX-DAY TOP EVENT WITH ANTWERP AS A BASE

The Concours du Meilleur Sommelier du Monde takes five days and consists of:

- **An official competition for the competing sommeliers.**
- **A side-program for the competing someliers and their fellow travelers.**
- **A broad program that is accessible by the public.**



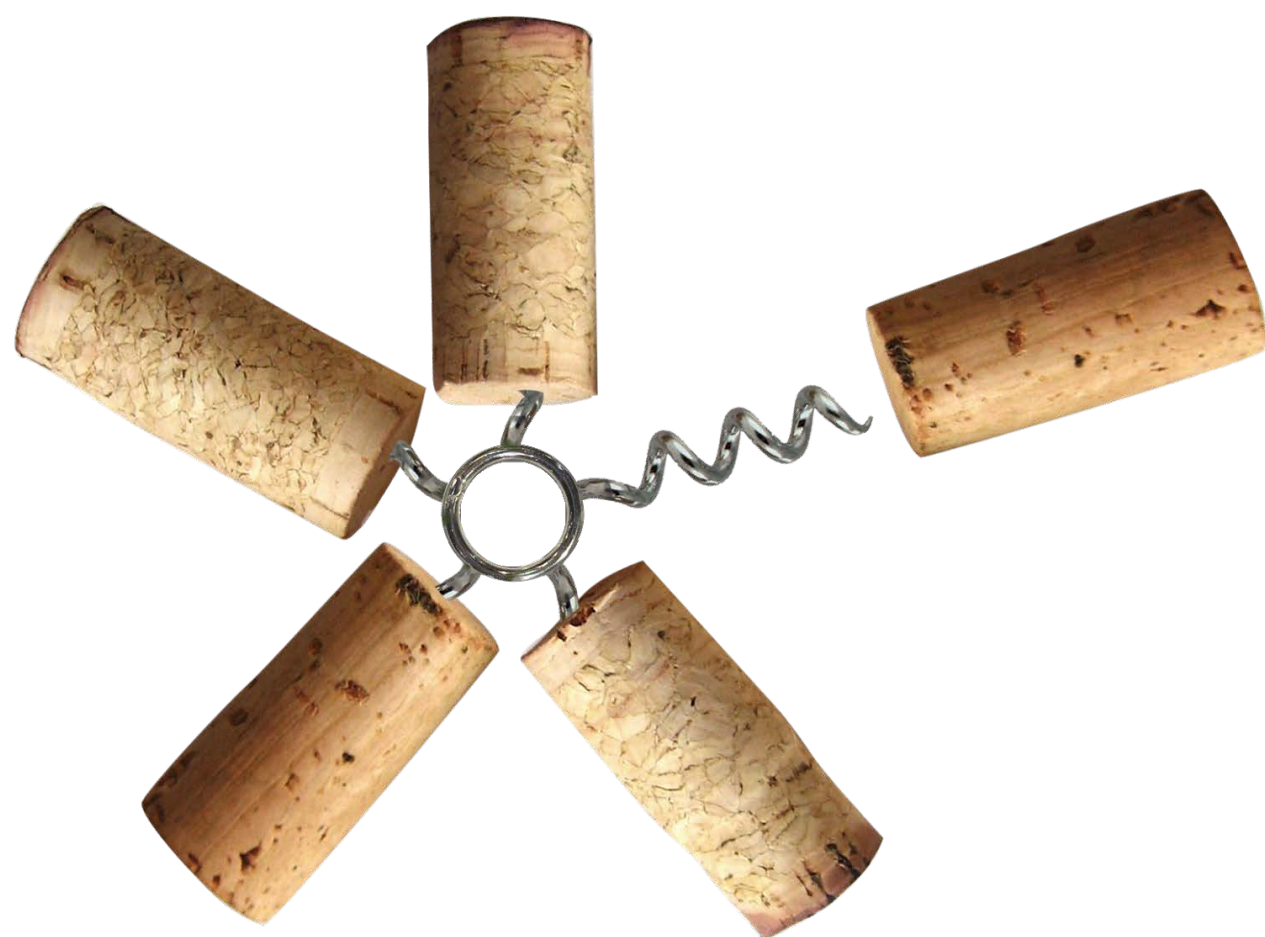
The six day event focuses on the future: sommeliers must have a broad knowledge of gastronomy where tastes come from all corners of the world and where the perfect beverage pairings should be made. Wine, beer, coffee, tea, gin, whisky, cocktails, ... A sommelier requires knowledge about them all. A cosmopolitan, curious for flavors and open to change. In addition to technical knowledge a sommelier should have a healthy dose of people skills to give guests the best experience.

In 2019 we will introduce the world to the sommelier of the future in Antwerp. We will convince young and old that a sommelier can make the difference. He creates a unique experience for all of his guests, thanks to his all-round knowledge of his profession and his guests.



2019: A REMARKABLE ANNIVERSARY EDITION

In 2019 it has exactly been **50 years** since the First edition of the Concours that was held in Brussels. That is also why the **Belgian Sommelier gild** was so anxious to host the 2019 concours in Antwerp. An **anniversary edition** that will not pass unnoticed.

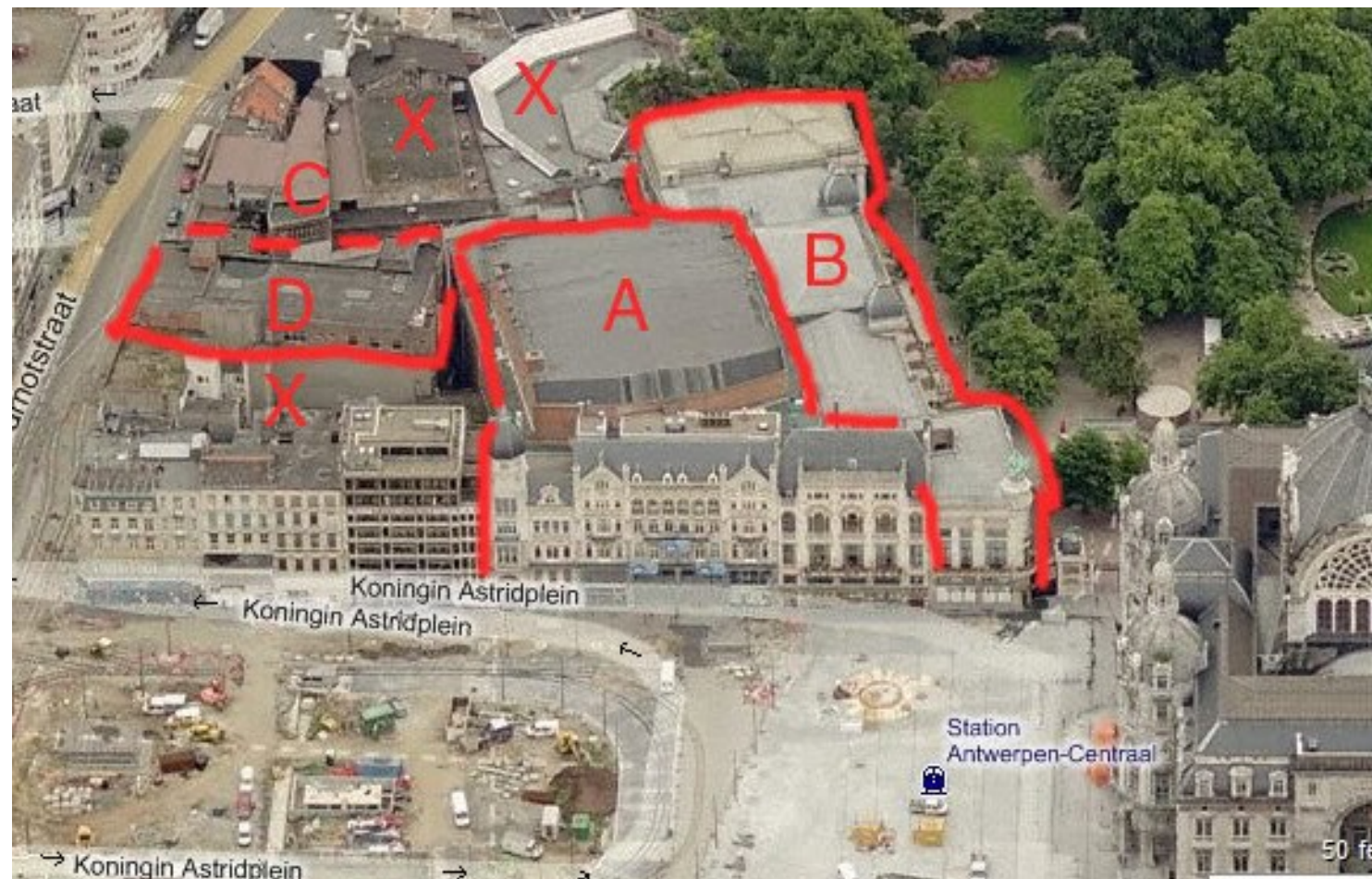


Armand Melkonian

VENUES

CONTEST LOCATION

CONTEST LOCATION



THE HISTORY OF THE QUEEN ELISABETH HALL

The Queen Elisabeth Hall was inaugurated on 25 July 1897. Between 1958 and 1960, the old festivity venue was converted to a modern concert hall. Since it opened in 1897, 2,590 symphonic concerts, 75 recitals, 76 musical afternoons, 32 chamber music concerts, and 12 ballet performances had been held there.

The Marble Hall, where many tea concerts were organized before the First World War, was the preferred location for chamber music concerts.

CONTEST ROOMS



THE RENEWED ELISABETH CENTER

The new concert and conference venue in the heart of Antwerp.

The brand new, one-of-a-kind, concert and conference hall is part of a fully developed and state-of-the-art conference centre and can be combined with the existing rooms of Antwerp ZOO and with the zoo itself. The Elisabeth Center Antwerp stretches out over 25,000 m², with 30 breakout rooms and a capacity of 2,500 guests.

With its unique setting in the heart of the city of Antwerp, adjacent to the Central Station, the Elisabeth Center offers conference and concert organisers an attractive location.

CONTEST ROOMS & FINAL

The rooms where the quarter finals and the semi finals take place are in various break out rooms in the Elisabeth Center. The final will take place in the Atrium hall.



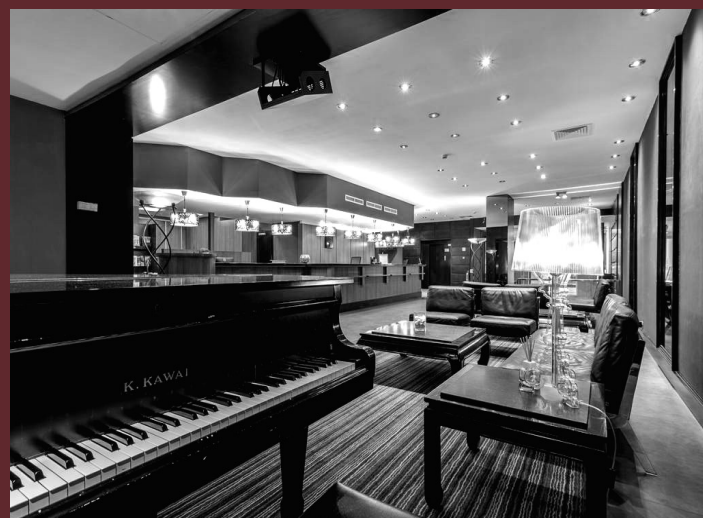
Break out rooms and Atrium



HOTELS

DE KEYSER HOTEL

Located centrally in the beautiful city of Antwerp. Your comfort and convenience are our top priority and we do our best to make sure you enjoy your stay from the moment you arrive. Close to many restaurants and attractions, easily accessible with public transportation and many stores in the local area.



QUEEN A ANTWERP

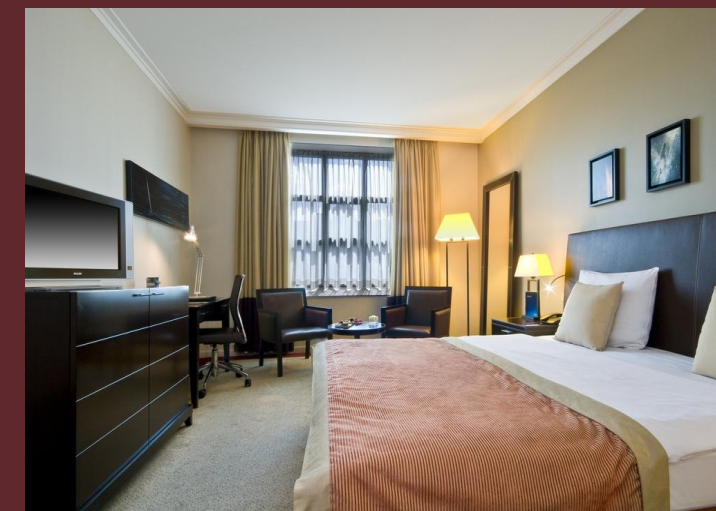
With our location just off the famous Astrid Square our guests enjoy convenient access to key venues such as the Flanders Meeting & Convention Center, the Diamond District and Antwerp ZOO.

Close to Antwerp's commercial districts and opposite Central Station, the Queen A provides a contemporary and central base to explore the city.



RADISSON BLU

The Radisson Blu Astrid Hotel places the city's beauty and transport just outside the door. It's an easy stroll across Astrid Square to Antwerp Central Station, an architecturally impressive transport hub. Our beautiful hotel provides views of the area's stunning 16th-century architecture and proximity to the fashion and diamond districts.



THE OFFICIAL PROGRAM

*CONTESTANTS



SUNDAY

DAYTIME

- Arrival Brussels Airport
- Transfer by bus
- Hospitality Antwerp (Centraal Station)
- Check-In Hotel

EVENING

- Welcome dinner

MONDAY

DAYTIME

- Quarter finals
- Lunch (buffet) at the Elisabeth Center Antwerp

EVENING

- Dinner "Wines of The World"

TUESDAY

DAYTIME

- Quarter finals
- Lunch at the Elisabeth Center Antwerp

EVENING

- Dinner
"A Night @ The Theatre"

WEDNESDAY

DAYTIME

- Semi finals
- Lunch
- Master Class “Special Beers”

EVENING

- Dinner

THURSDAY

DAYTIME

- off-day
- Visit of the brewery
De Koninck/Duvel
- Lunch at the Elisabeth
Center Antwerp

EVENING

- Free evening (discover
Antwerp restaurants)

FRIDAY

DAYTIME

- Finals
- Lunch at the Elisabeth
Center Antwerp

EVENING

- Classical concert by Royal
Flanders Philharmonic
Orchestra + special guest!
- Announcement ‘Best
Sommelier of the World’
- Gala dinner at the Atrium
hall in the Elisabeth Center
- Party

CONTACT

www.sommelier2019.be

www.sommerliers-gilde.be

Little teaser from this Concours 2016:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=znFKTB1V4GY>

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THANK YOU

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