## A brief history of the Association

The Cyprus Oenophile Association was established on 13<sup>th</sup> January 1998 in Limassol. The initiative was undertaken by a group of people who attended the Oenology and Wine Tasting courses organised through the Ministry of Education and Culture training centres of that time and by people who were particularly involved in oenology and the art of wine tasting.

Today, the Association continues to have the following objectives:

- To promote education about wine and spirituous beverages of wine origin through comprehensive training and continuous information of its members and the public.
- The knowledge of the wine's evolution through history, its nutritional value and its role in human relations and society.
- To bring people closer to wine by learning how to use their senses to better evaluate wine and achieve greater taste satisfaction.
- To contribute to the effort of further promoting Cypriot wines and improving their quality.

The Cyprus Oenophile Association organises lectures, seminars, oenology and wine tasting courses for its members and the public to achieve its objectives.

It also publishes articles about the vine and the wine and organises educational trips and visits to wine-producing regions and wineries in Cyprus and abroad.

To achieve its goals, the Association cooperates with various organised bodies, both public and private, in Cyprus and abroad. It also cooperates with wineries, including regional wineries on the island.

During its 20-year presence, the Association has organised very successful events in which many wine lovers participated.

It organises annually in most cities of Cyprus the open to the public events "Wine-Aroma of Cyprus", with thousands of visitors who got to know the island's wineries, wines and wine producers.

Since 2016, the Association has certified the courses it organises at the Cyprus Certification Company (CCC) and set in force the *Connoisseur Oívov* Certification Scheme ["Wine connoisseur scheme"], through which more than 100 people have been certified to date as *Connoisseur Oívov* ["Wine connoisseur"], after having previously taken the examinations organised by the Cyprus Certification Company (CCC).