



**GBG
2026**

**XIV. International
Symposium on Grapevine
Breeding and Genetics**



ZAGREB CROATIA

Hotel Hilton Garden Inn
28.06. — 03.07.2026.

PRELIMINARY

PROGRAM



INTRODUCTION

We are excited to announce the **preliminary program** of the **XIV International Symposium on Grapevine Breeding and Genetics (GBG 2026)**.

The program outlines the **scientific scope** and **thematic structure** of the symposium, bringing together **leading researchers, breeders, and industry experts** to **exchange knowledge** and **discuss recent advances** in **grapevine genetics and breeding**. These sessions reflect both fundamental and applied research, addressing **current challenges and future perspectives** and grapevine breeding, genetics, and sustainable viticulture.

Genetic Resources

Genomics and
Functional Genetics

Genetic improvement
and Breeding strategies

Phenotyping

Disease Resistance and Plant-Pathogen Interactions

Climate Change and Abiotic Stress
Tolerance

Fruit Development, Grape and Wine
Composition

Keynote Speakers by Section

- Genetic Resources: **Roberto Bacilieri**
- Genomics and Functional Genetics: **Michele Morgante**
- Genetic Improvement and Breeding Strategies: **Kai Voss-Fels**
- Disease Resistance and Plant–Pathogen Interactions: **Sandrine Eveillard**
- Climate Change and Abiotic Stress Tolerance: **Elisa Marguerit**
- Phenotyping: **Anna Kircherer**
- Fruit Development, Grape, and Wine Composition: **Ana Jeromel**

Sunday, June 28, 2026

17:00 - 19:00	Registration VENUE Hotel Hilton Garden Inn Zagreb, Conference floor
19:00 - 21:00	Welcome party VENUE Hotel Hilton Garden Inn Zagreb, Conference floor

Monday, June 29, 2026

8:00 - 9:00	Registration VENUE Hotel Hilton Garden Inn Zagreb, Conference floor
9:00 - 9:30	Opening ceremony VENUE Hotel Hilton Garden Inn Zagreb, Conference floor

Genetic resources

9:30 - 10:00	Plenary speaker	Roberto Bacilieri : Exploring Grapevine Genetic Resources in a Changing Climate
10:00 - 10:15		Franco Röckel - What 2,900 wild grapevines reveal about the genetic diversity of <i>Vitis vinifera</i> L. subsp. <i>sylvestris</i>
10:15 - 10:30		Carolina Royo Brun - Archaeogenomics reveals few generations separating ancient Eastern Mediterranean and modern Iberian grapevines over three millennia of viticulture
10:30 - 10:45	Oral presentations	Lance Cadle-Davidson - Documenting and mining disease resistance alleles in the USDA <i>Vitis</i> repositories
10:45 - 11:00		Diana Bellin - Study of ancient North-east Italian grape varieties taking advantage of an optimized aDNA extraction protocol
11:00 - 11:05		Luka Marinov - Sativa introgression in Croatian wild grapevine
11:05 - 11:10	Flash Oral presentations	Javier Tello - Genetic Insights into Georgian Grapevine Germplasm
11:10 - 11:15		Kristine Margaryan - Genetic insights into recently discovered indigenous grapes from historical Armenian vineyards: implications for conservation and breeding
11:15 - 11:45	Coffe break 1 / Poster section	

Breeding Strategies and Improvement (Part I.)

11:45 - 12:15	Plenary speaker	Kai Voss-Fels - Innovative breeding approaches for tomorrow's viticulture.
12:15 - 12:30		Gan-Yuan Zhong - Improving Grapevine Traits via Gene Editing
12:30 - 12:45	Oral presentations	Hannah Robinson - Genomic and epigenomic contributions to trait variation, genotype-by-environment interactions, and stability in grapevine clones
12:45 - 13:00		Kate Fessler - VitisGen3: Completing the grapevine powdery mildew pipeline
13:00 - 14:15	Lunch	

Breeding Strategies and Improvement (Part II.)

14:15 - 14:30		Alexandra Bald - Induced Mutagenesis as a Tool for Intra-varietal Improvement: Increased Diversity in Vegetative, Fruit and Phenological Traits in <i>Vitis vinifera</i> cv Pinotage
14:30 - 14:45		Dongjun Im - Strategic Advancement of the Korean Table Grape Breeding Program for Consumer-Preferred Cultivars
14:45 - 15:00		Sebastian Talquenca - Reviving Grapevine Massal Selection in the Context of Climate Change: A Strategy for Resilient Vineyards in the 21st Century
15:00 - 15:15	Oral presentations	Filippo Del Zotto - Evaluation of 21 new disease-resistant winegrape varieties (PIW1) for viticultural suitability in north-eastern Italy
15:15 - 15:30		Hélia Cardoso - A Portuguese Grapevine Breeding Program Focused on Enhancing Resistance to <i>Plasmopara viticola</i> and <i>Erysiphe necator</i>
15:30 - 15:45		Marco Dalbo - Grapevine breeding for the development of multi-disease-resistant cultivars through marker-assisted selection and resistance gene pyramiding
15:45 - 15:50		Elsa Goncalves - Polyclonal selection in ancient grapevine varieties: genetic gains and stability across environments
15:50 - 15:55	Flash Oral presentations	Florian Schwander - Breeding for climate adaption should avoid a widely distributed allele within the <i>Ver1</i> veraison locus
15:55 - 16:00		Darrell Lizamore - Building an integrated, high-throughput pipeline to accelerate grapevine improvement in New Zealand
16:00 - 16:30	Coffe break 2 / Poster section	
16:30	Workshops VitViz / Poster section	

Tuesday, 30.6.2026.

Genomics and Functional Genetics (Part I.)

9:00 - 9:30	Plenary speaker	Michele Morgante - Advancing genomic knowledge to unlock grapevine potential
9:30 - 9:45		Alessandra Amato - A NAC-centered transcriptional network as a core regulatory module controlling the onset of grape berry ripening
9:45 - 10:00		Luca Nerva - Functional Dissection of NPR3 by Genome Editing Highlights Its Role in Grapevine Defense and Root Symbiosis
10:00 - 10:15		Giorgio Gambino - miR7122-3p is a key regulating factor of the photosynthetic process in grapevine.
10:15 - 10:30	Oral presentations	Diego Lijavetzky - Epigenetic regulation of APT3 seems to explain the masculinized phenotype of a floral mutant of Listán Prieto
10:30 - 10:45		Dustin Wilkerson - Haplotype Diversity and Marker Development at Grapevine (Vitis) Disease Resistance Loci
10:45 - 11:00		Erik Griem - Functional dissection of grapevine resistance loci against <i>Plasmopara viticola</i> (Rpv) using a comparative multi-omics approach
11:00 - 11:15		Dylan Grobler - Large-scale variant identification and annotation from whole-genome-sequencing data enables functional prediction in grapevine
11:15 - 11:45	Coffe break 2 / Poster section	

Genomics and Functional Genetics (Part II.)

11:45 - 12:00		Ludger Hausmann - Mapping of five loci for black rot resistance in four breeding populations and identification of candidate genes associated with Rgb1
12:00 - 12:15		Julien Pirrello - Haplotype-resolved genome assembly and implementation of VitExpress, an open interactive transcriptomic platform for grapevine
12:15 - 12:30	Oral presentations	Sarah Cookson - QTL mapping and transcriptomics reveal complex and conserved regulation of graft union formation
12:30 - 12:45		Patricia Weber - Dissection of the Rpv12 locus: from the genetic basis to the phenotype
12:45 - 13:00		Pablo Carbonell-Bejerano - Targeted long-read sequencing reveals function-restoring MYBA1 and MYBA2 mutations in white-to-red grape color somatic variants
13:00 - 13:05		Varoostha Govender - Diploid genome assembly and annotation provide insights into allele-specific variants underlying fruit-quality QTLs
13:05 - 13:10	Flash Oral presentations	Paolo Callipo - A Population-Scale Analysis of Genetic, Epigenetic, and Phenotypic Variation in Pinot Clonal Populations
13:10 - 13:15		Sarah Gautier - Origin of hemizyosity in grape: the case study of cv. Merlot
13:15 - 14:45	Lunch	

Disease and Plant-Pathogen Interactions

14:45 - 15:00	Plenary speaker	Sandrine Eveillard - Progress Toward Less Susceptible Grapevines to Vector-Borne Diseases
15:00 - 15:15		Andreia Figueiredo - Decoding Lipid Signaling in Grapevine– <i>Plasmopara viticola</i> Interaction: From Host Membrane Remodeling to Oomycete-Derived Lipid Elicitors
15:15 - 15:30		Patrice This - Are specific microbiota from the phyllosphere of American <i>Vitis</i> species involved to their resistance to downy mildew?
15:30 - 15:45	Oral presentations	João Pereira - Uncovering novel epigenetic traits in grapevine resistance against downy and powdery mildew – a multi-omics approach
15:45 - 16:00		Luka Wyk - Deciphering the Hormonal Regulatory Networks Underlying Grape Berry Resistance to <i>Botrytis cinerea</i>
16:00 - 16:15		Annika Ziehl - Multi-dimensional characterization of grape berry cuticles and their usability for an improved breeding of <i>Botrytis</i> bunch rot resilience
16:15 - 16:20		Catarina Silva - Proteomic Insights into Early Grapevine Defence Responses to Downy and Powdery Mildew
16:20 - 16:25	Flash Oral presentations	Umberto Salvagnin - Grapevine dmr6-1dmr6-2 double mutants display constitutive systemic acquired resistance and altered gibberellin metabolism
16:25	Coffe break 2/Poster section	
18:00	Zagreb Relaxing walk through the city	

Wednesday, July 1, 2026

8:00 - 14:00 **Technical tour**

16:00 **Gathering at viticultural experimental station „Jazbina“ - picnic**

Thursday, 2.7.2026.

Climate Change and Abiotic Stress Tolerance

9:00 - 9:30	Plenary speaker	Elisa Margeurit - Adapting grapevine production to environmental challenges
9:30 - 9:45		Agnès Doligez - VvRefPanel field trial reveals new genetic determinants for abiotic stress tolerance in <i>Vitis vinifera</i>
9:45 - 10:00		Philippe Gallusci - Evidence of trans-annual epigenetic memories of stresses in grapevine
10:00 - 10:15	Oral presentations	Pravir Mabeer - CRISPR/Cas9-induced trehalase knockout for drought resistance in grapevine
10:15 - 10:30		Martino Bolognini - Root system architecture plasticity in <i>Vitis</i> plants under progressive soil drying
10:30 - 10:45		Catarina Estêvão - Chloroplast-related pathways involved in grapevine drought responses
10:45 - 10:50	Flash Oral presentations	Gabriella Vinci - Seasonal dynamics in grapevine physiological and transcriptomic responses to combined water and nitrogen limitation
10:50 - 10:55		Isabella Mascio - Physiological Performance and Targeted Gene Expression Dynamics in 'Italia' Table Grapevine under Prolonged Water Deficit
10:55 - 11:00		Maria Paes - Bridging In Vitro and In Planta Models: Metabolic Insights into Grapevine Stress Responses
11:00 - 11:45	Coffe break 2/Poster section	

Phenotyping

11:45 - 12:15	Plenary speaker	Anna Kicherer - Supporting Grapevine Breeding and Research through Sensor-based Phenotyping Applications
12:15 - 12:30		Nagarjun Dr. Malagol - HIGH-THROUGHPUT CNN-BASED PHENOTYPING OF GRAPE BERRY HEAT STRESS AS AN OBJECTIVE INDICATOR OF SUNBURN SENSITIVITY
12:30 - 12:45	Oral presentations	Nathalie Ollat - Which potential for Near Infrared Spectroscopy-based phenomic selection of grapevine rootstocks?
12:45 - 13:00		Danielle Hopkins - Early-stage phenomic prediction in grapevine (<i>Vitis</i> spp.) using near-infrared (NIR) reflectance spectra
13:00 - 13:15		Giacomo Eccheli - A Morphological Approach for the Early Selection of Grapevine Rootstocks Tolerant to Water Stress
13:15 - 13:20	Flash Oral presentation	Marco Fraccalvieri - DISSECTING THE ROLE OF EPFL9-2 IN GRAPEVINE ROOT SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE THROUGH RHIZOTRON-BASED PHENOTYPING
13:20 - 14:45	Lunch	

Fruit Development, Grape and Wine Composition

14:45 - 15:15	Plenary speaker	Ana Jeromel - Oenological Identity and Technological Challenges of PIWI Varieties
15:15 - 15:30		Stefania Savoi - The role of lipids as molecular sentinels in grape ripening
15:30 - 15:45	Oral presentations	Eryse White - Evaluation of Fermentation Kinetics and Wine Quality Parameters of Distinctive Florida Muscadine Wines Fermented with Autochthonous Yeast Strains
15:45 - 16:00		Erin Treiber - Enhancing fruit quality of cold-hardy interspecific table grapes through gibberellic acid applications
16:00 - 16:15		Noam Reshef - Integrated Genetic and Functional Analyses Reveal PEPC and cMDH as Antagonistic Regulators of Grape Acidity
16:15 - 16:20	Flash Oral presentation	Ferdinand Regner - Development of a wine with controlled origin from Piwi grape varieties

16:20 - 16:50	Coffe break 2/Poster section
16:50 - 17:00	Closing remarks - End of Sesiions
20:00	Gala dinner

Friday, 3.7.2026.

9:00	Post conference tours departure ISTRIA – Red Istria – Wine Paradise (2 day tour) DALMATIA – The Wine Story of the South (3 day tour)
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