



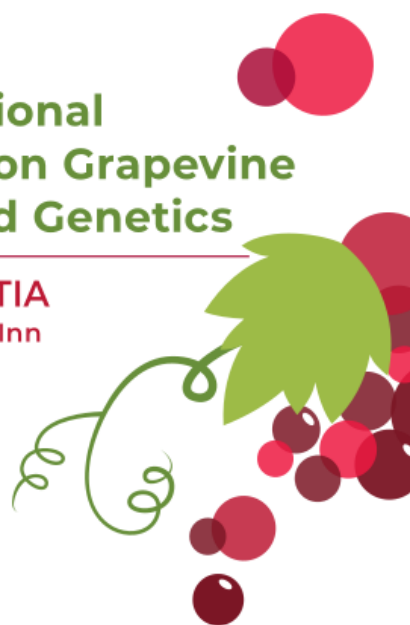
**GBG  
2026**

**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	<b>Registration</b> VENUE Hotel Hilton Garden Inn Zagreb, Conference floor
19:00 - 21:00	<b>Welcome party</b> VENUE Hotel Hilton Garden Inn Zagreb, Conference floor

## Monday, June 29, 2026

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

### Genetic resources

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

### Breeding Strategies and Improvement ( Part I.)

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

### Breeding Strategies and Improvement ( Part II.)

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

Tuesday, 30.6.2026.

### Genomics and Functional Genetics (Part I.)

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

### Genomics and Functional Genetics (Part II.)

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

### Disease and Plant-Pathogen Interactions

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

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

### Phenotyping

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

### Fruit Development, Grape and Wine Composition

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

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

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## Friday, 3.7.2026.

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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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