



**European Wine City Dionisio Award attribution speech to Rethymo
Rethymo - Greece
21st of April 2018**

I start by saluting my colleagues and Ms. Governor, addressing a very special salutation to the Mayor of Rethymo, George Marinakis and the Vice Mayor, Stelios Spanoudakis as well as to the organizing committee of the European Wine City Dionisio. I address also a salutation to the President of *Città del Vino*, Floriano Zambon and to all the members of RECEVIN administration council that are present here, today. I wish also to salute the national associations' general directors of Portugal and Italy, Paolo Benvenuti and José Arruda. I leave a special salute to my colleagues Carlos Bernardes, President of Torres Vedras City Hall and Pedro Folgado, President of Alenquer City Hall, referring to their excellent work that has been done in the beginning of this year as European Wine City 2018.

I also salute all Authorities that are present here today in this day of celebration.

Good morning to you all,

It is with great honour and joy that I'm here today in Rethymo to deliver the award of European Wine City Dionisio. It is impossible not to mention that I'm completely overwhelmed with the charm of this territory, what assures me that the award of European Wine City Dionisio was very well attributed to Rethymo. It will be without any doubt an excellent bearer of this title.

The attribution of this award is one of the most important moments of RECEVIN, being determinant for the promotion of wines and territory, being Palmela was an example, the first European Wine City, in 2012. Dear President Álvaro Amaro, allow me to congratulate you by dignifying the beginning of the European Wine City as a success story.

I must mention that all this work has been made possible due to the commitment of the different National Associations.

I do say, deeply convinced, that the National associations play determinant roles in their territories. For that you have just to verify *Città del Vino* 500 associates,



as well as the over 100 associates of AMPV, thus confirming that that one third of the Portuguese Municipalities are associated to AMPV. We must also mention ACEVIN's role that has round about 80 associates.

We believe that this working methodology is the only viable one in the economic, political and social context in which we live in. Projects only make sense if thought as a network, if thought having as their basis collaborative work. It is with this spirit that RECEVIN, with round about 600 associates, works. But the results achieved so far by RECEVIN, must be seen taking in account the determinant role played by National Associations.

This is the partnership spirit, that starts with National associations and gos further on to the European Network, which allows wine to be a lever for the promotion of Our territories and Our agricultural sector.

I wish, thus, to seize this moment to defy Rethymo to create a National association of Greek Wine Cities, which, most certainly will very much contribute to the promotion of your fantastic wine and territory, which has so far astonished us.

I also leave a second challenge, to make a presentation of Rethymno European Wine City Dioniso in the European Parliament, with MEPs from the associated countries of RECEVIN.

I'm going to end my speech by mentioning that the work that has been done along the last few years, has made us stronger and more intervening, we count on with Greece and with Rethymo to allow us to grow, to make a difference in Europe, defending our wine territories and the wine as a structuring product in our economy and our cultural identity.

Congratulations Rethymno! I hope this year will be full of successes!