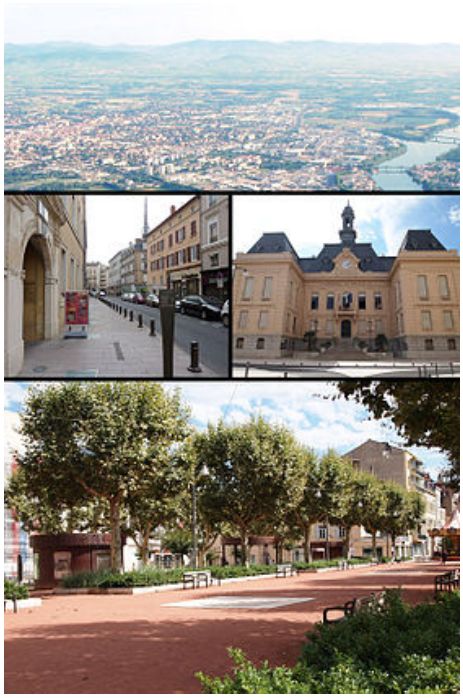
WELCOME IN BEAUJOLAIS !

(to VILLEFRANCHE-SUR-SAONE)

WORLD MAH-JONG CHAMPIONSHIP 2019



Introduction

The French Mah-Jong federation in partnership with the region of Beaujolais, the town of Villefranche sur Saône and the Rhône Mah-Jong club, is thrilled to present its candidancy file for the WMC 2019.

We decided to pick a region of wine and culinary traditions which is the Beaujolais. This region, near from Lyon, is known to everyone for its famous wine, the Beaujolais, available in ten "Crus" and of course, The "Beaujolais nouveau", tasted simultaneously all over the world from the third Thursday of November. But beyond the wine celebration, there are many other things to discover.

The French Mah-jong Federation (FFMJ) is one of the oldest and most important organization of Mah-jong in Europe. It unites around thirty clubs which represent around 600 members.

Each year many tournaments are organized by clubs, including MERS tournaments which house between 80 to 120 players.

In 2014, Strasbourg held MCR European championships where 204 participants from 18 countries played in an excellent convivial atmosphere full of respect and fair-play.

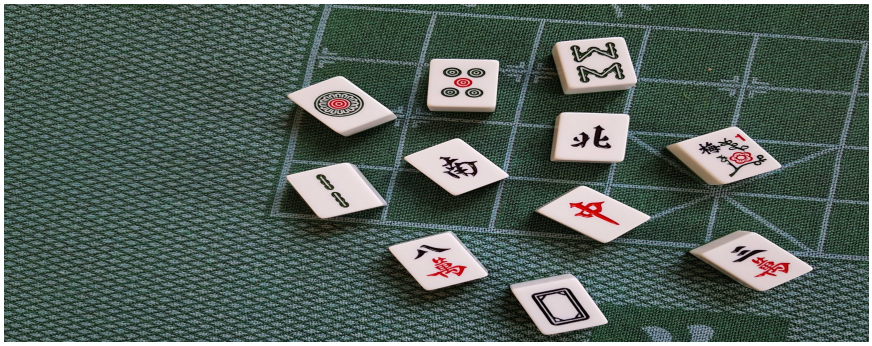
Thanks to the City of Villefranche-sur-Saône and its Mayor (see his mail attached) we are able to offer the necessary infrastructure for the WMC2019 :

* it will take place from October 30th to November 3rd
* it will house the 256 best world players
* it will propose a 10-rounds tournament

We hope to provide the best organization, meals, rewards and environment, which will leave an unforgettable memory to each player.

Let us introduce them to you.

1) Agenda



We have chosen the last week of October which is closed to the original proposition because it includes the All Saints' week end with one public holiday (1st November) in the majority of European countries.

Thursday 31st October 2019

-	10am - 4pm	referee's meeting
-	2pm - 6.30pm	game plan disclosure and welcome gifts … and confirmation of the participants' presence in Echevins Hall (Town centre).
	7pm - 8pm	opening Ceremony at the town hall of Villefranche sur Saône, in the presence of Thomas Ravier, town mayor.

Friday 1st November 2019

-	08:00 - 08:30	last registration for the people who cannot come Thursday afternoon.
-	8am – 8.45am	Breakfast
-	8.45am – 9am	Briefing
-	9am – 11am	Round 1
-	11.30am – 1.30pm	Round 2
-	1.30pm – 2.45pm	Lunch
-	2.45pm – 4.45pm	Round 3
-	5.15pm – 7.15pm	Round 4
-	20:00 - 22:00	EMA general assembly

Saturday 2nd November 2019

-	8am – 9am	Breakfast
-	9am – 11am	Round 5
-	11.30am – 1.30pm	Round 6
-	1.30pm – 2.45pm	Lunch
-	2.45pm – 4.45pm	Round 7
-	5.15pm – 7.15pm	Round 8
		End of the first part of the tournament
-	8.30pm	Gala reception

Sunday 3rd November 2019

- 8am – 9am Breakfast
- 9am – 11am Round 9
- 11.30am – 1.30pm Round 10
- 1.30pm – 2.45pm Lunch

- 2.30pm: Prize-giving and closure ceremony.

Note that during the tournament, excursions will be offered to accompanying persons in partnership with the tourist office.

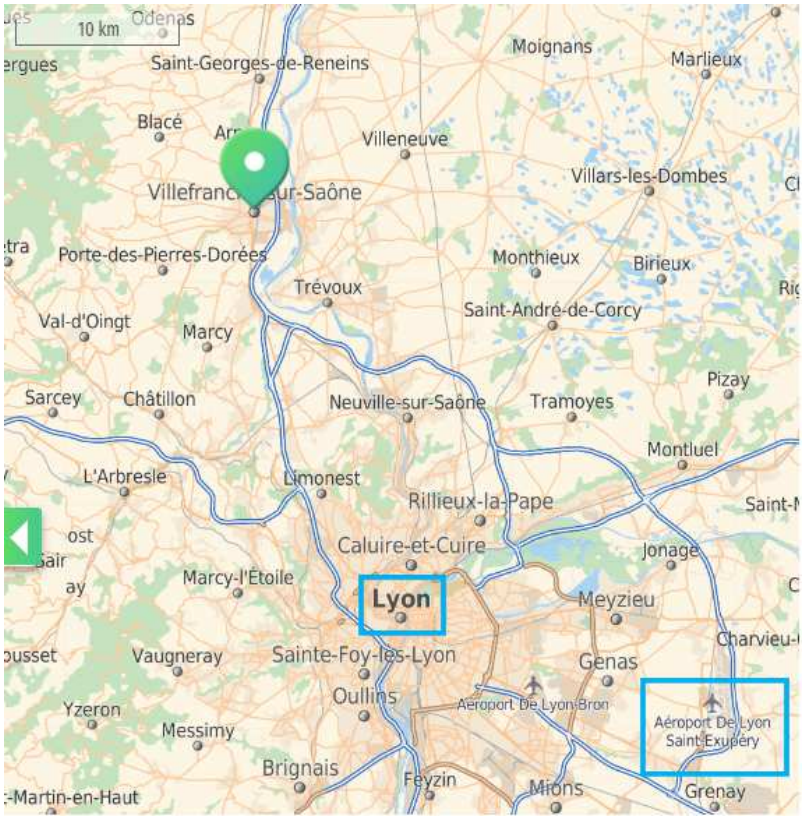
2) Reception site

2-1 Location

The tournament will take place in Beaujolais territory, high-end gastronomy of Lyon area, located:

-30 kilometers from Lyon

-40 kilometers from Lyon Saint Exupéry airport (accessible by public transport)



2-2 Accessibility

Villefranche-sur-Saône is easily accessible because close to the metropolis of Lyon it benefits from all its road, rail and air infrastructures.

By train

- 20 min from Lyon
- 1 hour from the Saint-Exupery airport TGV Station by public transport
- 2h30 from Paris via Mâcon-Loché TGV station

By car

- Thanks to the network of convergent highways in Lyon, access is simplified whether you come from Paris, Lille, Strasbourg, Geneva, Milan, Nice, Barcelona or Bordeaux.

by plane

- 1h by public transport from Saint Exupery International airport, **possibility of providing a direct bus between Villefranche and Airport at the end of the tournament**

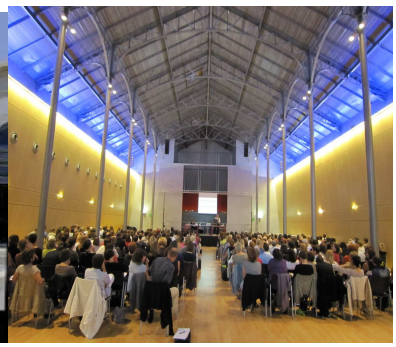
2-3 Infrastructures

Capital of the Beaujolais region, Villefranche-sur-Saône has a population of 38 000 people. The town infrastructures are appropriate for the organization of international large scale events. Up to date the most important organization in Villefranche-sur-Saône is the « Marathon international du Beaujolais » which has been a yearly event for the last twenty years. It hosts more than 15 000 runners of 70 different nationalities.

City on a human scale, Villefranche-sur-Saone, offers a city center fully accessible on foot from the station, including hotels and quality restaurants.

The game room



For the WMC 2019, the mayor provides the “Atelier”. This space includes a 630m² main hall with large steel structure. Next to the main hall is the dining space, a ticket office, and a lift for people with reduced mobility.

This multipurpose space, which could accommodate 600 people standing and 430 seats, is catered for associations and businesses celebrations, exhibitions, dinner dance, etc. This hall is fully equipped with 2 microphones (micro hf)/ 2 floor speakers with cables of 15m/ 2 power cables of 15m/ 2 micro Hf, WIFI and more than 400 chairs. The tournament will take place in this hall.

The place where the tournament takes place is near the town train station. Therefore participants who wish to stay in Lyon or Macon would have no problem getting to the tournament.

Dining room

Lunch will be served in “Le Terminus” which is 300m from the game room or 5-minute walk. There is also a minibus for reduced mobility persons. This restaurant can accomodate more than 300 people.

Lunch will be provided for three days throughout the tournament. Buffet will be served on high tables to allow players to circulate and mingle.

Town Council Chamber

EXCEPTIONAL: The mayor proposes that the opening ceremony takes place in the Council Chamber which is a beautiful ancient hall, can house up to 300 people. Thomas Ravier will be giving an opening speech.



Gala night

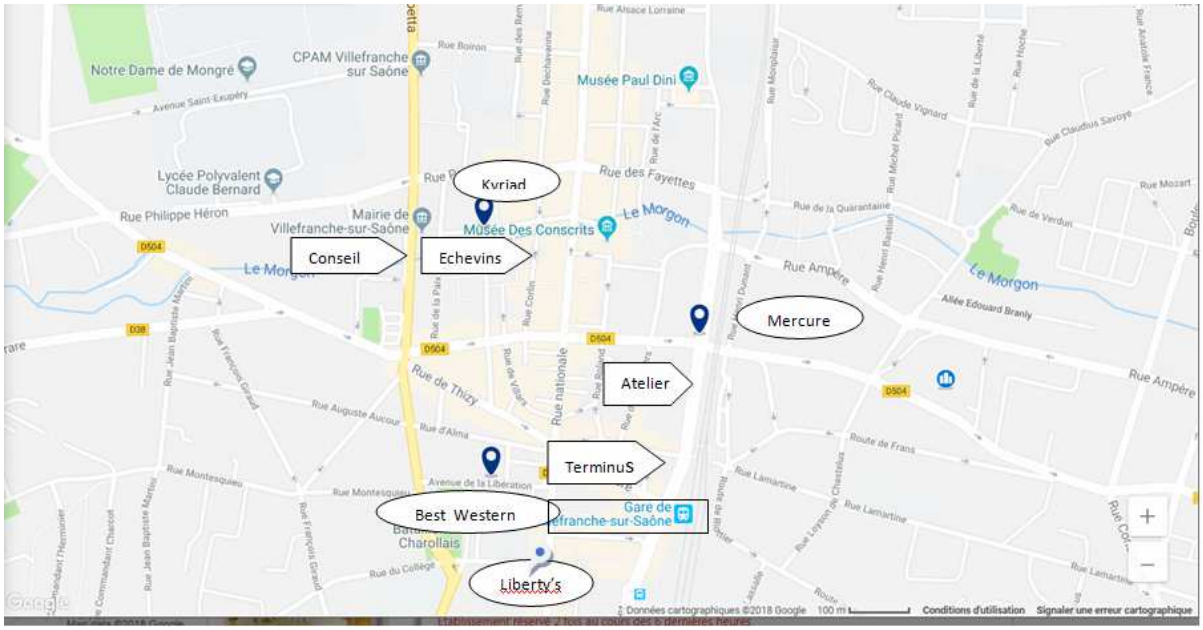
Neither the place nor the theme has been chosen at present. We have many opportunities, one is wine tasting in a cellar near Villefranche sur Saône.

Buses will drive participants there and take them back to the city centre at the end of the evening.

In conclusion, thanks to the strong support of the city as a partner, we will ensure this event possible to participate without the need to use the means of transport.

2-4 Accomodation

200 rooms in different hotels in the town centre + 200 other rooms in the outskirt (less than 2km from the town centre)



In town center

1/Best Western Plus Hôtel Plaisance ***

63 rooms + 5 duplex suites
77€ / night

2/Hôtel Mercure Ici & La ****

78 rooms
75€ / night

3/Hôtel Kyriad ***

39 rooms
67€ / night

4/The Liberty's **

12 rooms
59€ / night

hotel prices are given as a guide

Around twenty AirBnB accommodations are also available

On the outskirts

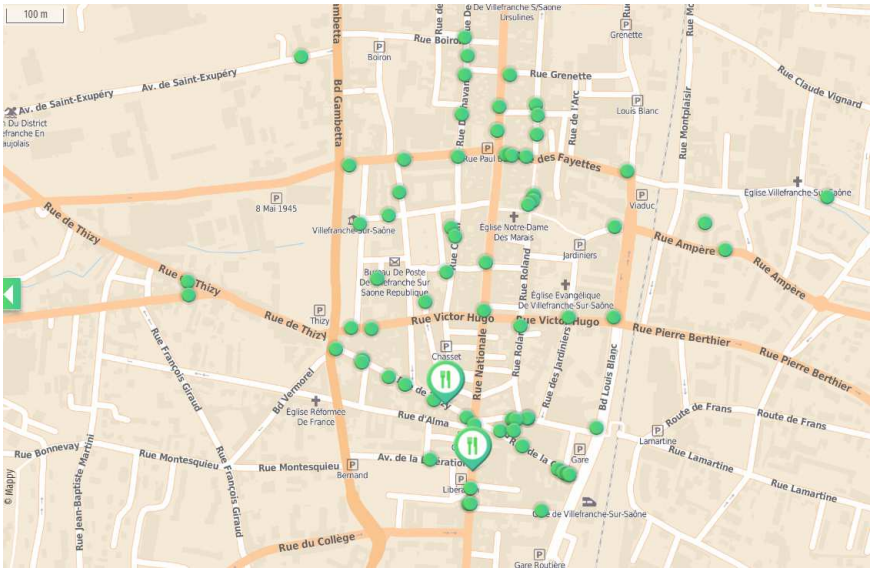
Many hotels are less 2 km away from the city centre. Among them are Ibis Budget hotels and Hotel Newport...

Those who want to stay in Lyon or Macon can come by train.

2-5 Food service

Villefranche-sur-Saône offers a wide choice of restaurants to sample local specialties.

The reputation of the Lyon cuisine is well established: its cold cuts, cheeses, quenelles and wines!



Participants will have no trouble finding a restaurant of their choice for dinner in the evening on Villefranche-sur-Saone.

We will make sure to book tables upon request for dinners, such as for the EMA AG evening.

2-6 Excursions

For the non-players, some excursions are possible :

- Organized with the local tourist office, guided tour of Villefranche : courtyards and Renaissance houses, Chapelle de l'Hôtel Dieu, Collégiale Notre Dame des Marais
- Middle-aged castles with their chapels and Romanesque churches
- The villages, made of « Pierres Dorées », of Beaujolais (Oingt, Theizé…)





3- Tournament

3-1 Proceedings

256 players selected by their National Federation will play.

The rules of the game will be those of MCR. Each round will be composed of 16 hands, during 2 hours max.

We would like to propose a new format for this tournament : 8 classifying rounds and 2 final rounds. *Otherwise, if the EMA Board wishes a more traditional tournament with 10 rounds, we could comply with it.*

In the first case (classifying + final rounds), the tournament will be organized in 2 parts :

First classifying phase

For the 8 first rounds of Friday and Saturday, players will be spread out at 64 tables, by random draw.

No player will play twice with the same player. And no more than 2 players of the same nationality will play together at the same table.

As a rule each team is composed of players of the same nationality. Only teams composed of players of a same nationality will be ranked in the Teams Ranking

And members of a same national team will never meet.

At the end of these 8 rounds, rankings will be fixed with 16 places groups.

Second final phase

For the 9th round, each group of 16 players will play at 4 tables. Each table will be organized as follows:

- 1 player ranked between 1-4 (modulo 16)
- 1 player between 5-8 (modulo 16)
- 1 player between 9-12 (modulo 16)
- 1 player between 13-16 (modulo 16)

By example for the fifth groupe : the first table with players ranked 65; 69; 73; 77. the second one with players ranked 66; 70; 74; 78. and so on, le third one 67; 71; 75;79 and the last one 68; 72; 76; 80.

Then rankings will be fixed with 4 places groups.

For the 10th and last round, each group of 16 players will play as follows : the first table with the four winning players, the second one with the four second palyers, the third one with the four third players and the last one with the four last players.

The winner of the championship will be the winner of the winners' table in the first group of 16.

Electronic score reporting

Each table will be provided with a tablet computer.

Easy to use and securised, it limits the number of mistakes and shows results in real time, on the Internet for example. So, at each ringing out of the Gong, temporary ranking will be displayed.

Eight players of the Club of MCR Lyon, accustomed to these tablets, will be present to correct false inputs, so that players are not disturbed while playing.

For safety reasons, scores will be written on paper. This version will be taken into account in case of complaint

The prizes

The World Champion and the 9 first players will be rewarded with great prizes

The top **three national teams** will be rewarded.

More special prizes will be revealed on the tournament day.

3-2 Arbitration

Seven or eight international referees, under the responsability of Astrid Dudebout and David Jourdain international EMA referees, will form the referee committee. The referees will be appointed by the different national federations in proportion to the selected players.

The cost of accommodations, hotels and lunches will be paid by the organization.

3-3 Logistics

There are 25 members in the Mah-jong club du Rhône, including 15 competition players in MCR. Therefore, the club will be able to provide the tournament with substitute players.

In partnership with local associations, volunteers will be present throughout the tournament for drinks, snacks, information...

4- Registration fee

From the beginning, we have had the will to make this 6th Mah-Jong World Championship a tournament of excellence so that everyone has an unforgettable memory! Nevertheless, we want to keep registration cost as reasonable as possible, such as previous registration fees for similar events.

Our registration fee is 250€ pro player !

It is including :

* Organizing a quality tournament, with significant rewards
* breakfast and lunch during the 3-day tournament
* hot drinks (coffee, Tea) and cold drinks (bottles of water and fruit juices)
* Tasting of Beaujolais Wine
* accommodation for referees
* Gala reception and Saturday dinner
* Opening ceremony with and cocktail welcome

5- Organization team

Organization is managed by:

Jean Louis BARBET (FFMJ)

Isabelle SANTOS (MCR Lyon)

Manuel SANTOS (MCR Lyon)

Loïc de KERGOMMEAUX (MCR Lyon)

Astrid DUBEDOUT et David JOURDAIN (FFMJ Arbitration)

Caroline ARNAUD (FFMJ Competition)

Eric DESBENOIT (FFMJ data processing)

Frédéric PETIT (chairman MCR Lyon)

6- Contacts

FFMJ : Jean-Louis BARBET	mail : jeanlouis.barbet@gmail.com	tél : +33 (0) 7 71 59 54 44
MCR Lyon : Manuel SANTOS	mail : manusantos@free.fr	tél : +33 (0) 6 98 39 07 73

Annexe : Lettre de Thomas RAVIER Maire de Villefranche-sur-Saône

Thomas RAVIER
Maire de Villefranche
Vice-président du Département

Villefranche, le jeudi 20 décembre 2018

M. Manuel SANTOS

Dear Sir,

It is with great pleasure that I became aware of your willingness to submit an application to host the 2019 Mahjong World Championship in Villefranche.

As Mayor, I look forward to your initiative and I am pleased to share with you my full support.

Mahjong is both a game and a sport that puts the essential honesty to any form of sport practice but also the respect of the game and the spirit of the game, which are essential elements to any form of sporting practice.

These values that seem to me fundamental, as well as the educational virtues, are elements that go beyond sports considerations.

I am also pleased to confirm the availability of equipment and premises by the City of Villefranche to ensure the smooth running of this event over the three days of competititon.

The organization of such a meeting would highlight the welcoming qualities of our beautiful and historic Beaujolais region. Villefranche-sur-Saône, as a capital, is an appropriate place given its expertise in twinning and friendship ties with other municipalities around the world.

Remaining for my part at your disposal, please accept, Sir,my best regards

Thomas RAVIER

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