

25\*26\*27 avril 2008  
3<sup>ème</sup> tournoi international  
de Mah-jong de Paris  
Championnat de France 2008

[www.mahjong.paris.free.fr](http://www.mahjong.paris.free.fr)



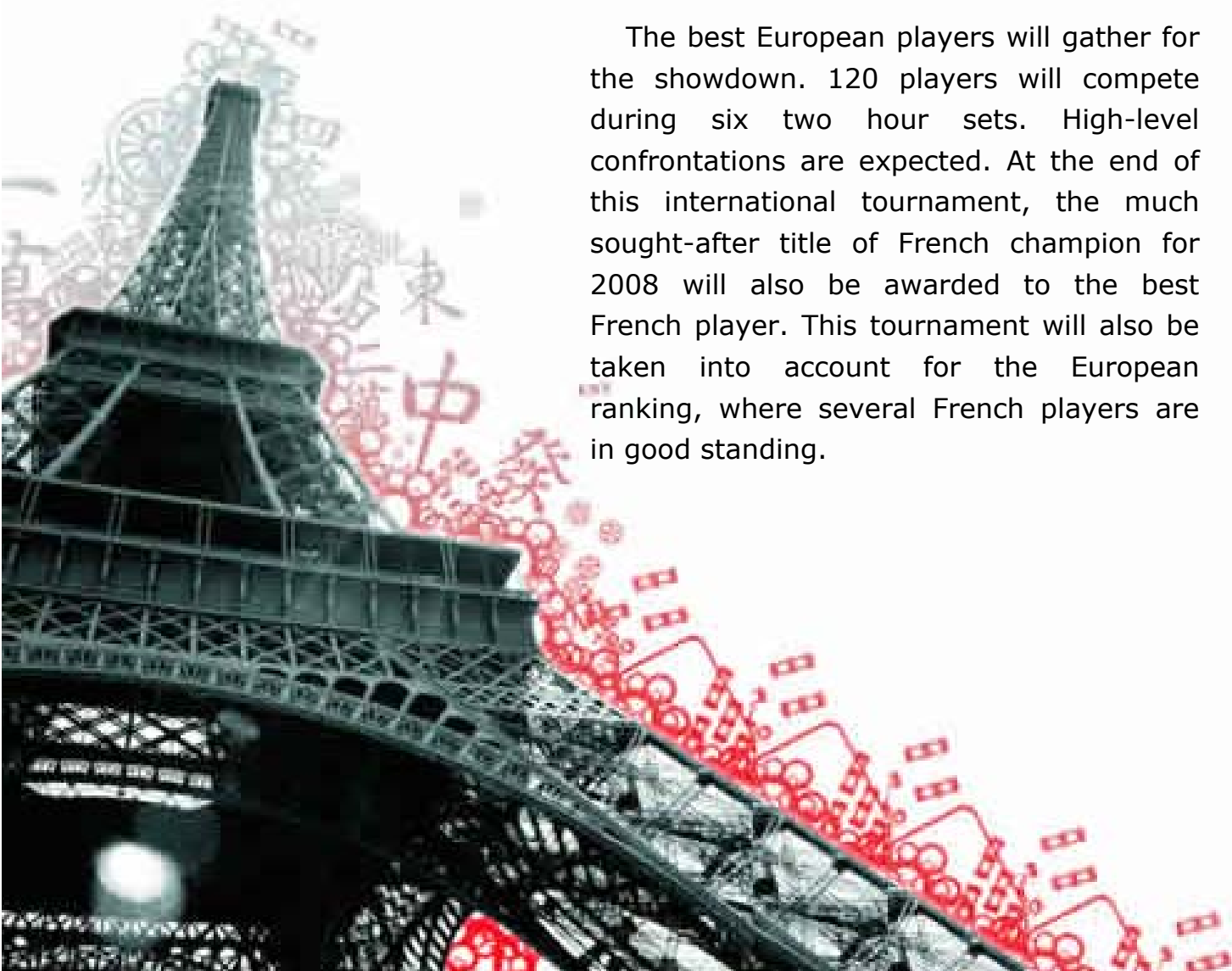
MAIRIE DU 9<sup>ÈME</sup> • SALLE ROSSINI • 67 RUE DROUOT 75009 PARIS  
ENTRÉE ET INITIATION GRATUITE!



The third edition of the Paris international mahjong tournament is the most ambitious event of its kind ever created in France. It is organized by the French Mahjong Federation, and two clubs from the Paris region: Fleur d'Orchidée and Magic Mahjong Social Pung.



The best European players will gather for the showdown. 120 players will compete during six two hour sets. High-level confrontations are expected. At the end of this international tournament, the much sought-after title of French champion for 2008 will also be awarded to the best French player. This tournament will also be taken into account for the European ranking, where several French players are in good standing.



## A B R I E F O V E R V I E W O F M A H J O N G

Mahjong is China's most popular game. Although it was banned in 1949 by the communist regime, it was reinstated in 1998 and received official recognition by China's ministry for sports as its 255th sport.

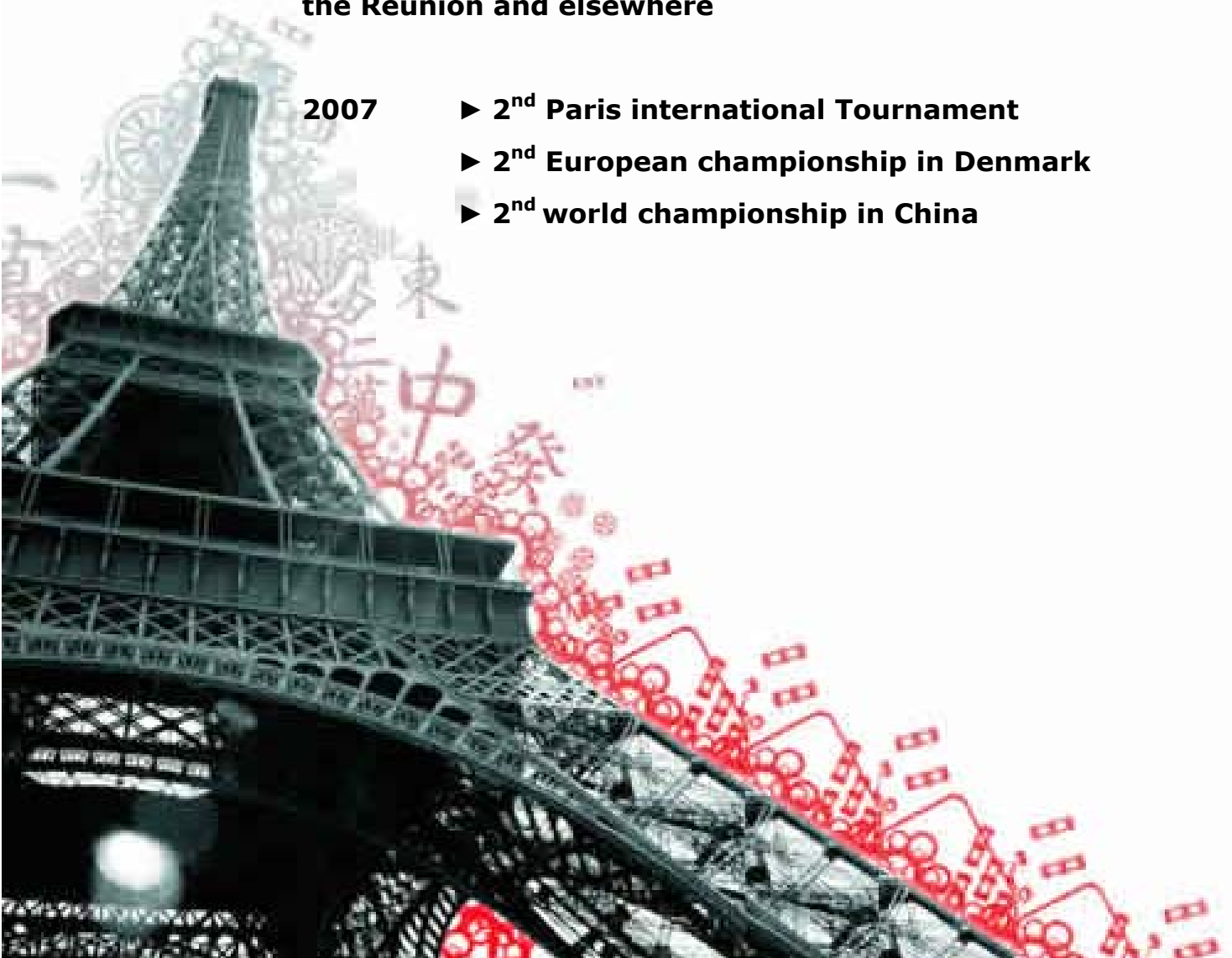
It quickly became important to define an official set of rules, in order to organize competitions. The most widely recognized «masters» of mahjong were gathered and divided into groups of nine to create these first official rules. After two years of research, they were finally able to present a set of no less than 440 combinations. They were first brought down to 200, and finally to a more palatable 81. These 81 combinations immediately became the world reference in mahjong. Japan, Taiwan and Macau adopted them instantly and the first world championship took place in Japan in 2002.

In Europe, these rules sparked unprecedented growth. Denmark, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Spain, Russia, the Netherlands, Italy, Belgium and France now have their own national Federations. The first European championship took place in June 2005 in the Netherlands.



## THE KEY DATES OF MAHJONG

- 2002** ▶ **1st world championship in Japan**
- 2003** ▶ **1st Chinese championship**
- 2005**
- ▶ **1st European championship in the Netherlands**
  - ▶ **Foundation of the French Federation - FFMJ**
  - ▶ **Foundation of the European Association – EMA**
- Member countries of the EMA: Germany, Austria, Denmark, France, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands**
- ▶ **1st French championship**
  - ▶ **Foundation of the World Organization – WMO**
  - ▶ **1st Paris international tournament**
- 2006** ▶ **Sharp increase in the number of tournaments in Europe, the Reunion and elsewhere**
- 2007**
- ▶ **2<sup>nd</sup> Paris international Tournament**
  - ▶ **2<sup>nd</sup> European championship in Denmark**
  - ▶ **2<sup>nd</sup> world championship in China**



## GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF MAHJONG

Mahjong is a Chinese game involving four players. This ancestral game is the most popular in China. It is played by all social categories, at all ages, and one out of two Chinese families owns a mahjong game!

The game is made up of 144 pieces of plastic, wood, bone or ivory, called tiles. The symbols of Chinese culture are painted or carved on these tiles, such as the three dragons : Green, Red and White Dragons, or the four winds : East, South, West and North Winds, as well as three families, circle, bamboo, and Chinese characters, numbered from 1 to 9.

Mahjong follows the basic principles of card games such as rummy, since its objective is to form « Pungs » (triplets), « Kangs » (four of a kind) or « Chows » (a three-card flush). Simple at first glance, the game actually turns out to be thrilling because of the multitude of possible combinations with 144 tiles. The tiles making up your hand are drawn at random, but an experienced player will know how to combine intuition, strategy and the analysis of his adversaries' playing to play out his own hand optimally

Mahjong is also a particularly esthetic game because of the beauty of the tiles and of the poetry associated to the ritual involved in each game. Each new game starts with the building of the « wall » where the tiles are drawn from, associated with the Great Wall of China, surrounding the « Empire » or « Celestial Garden » where the game is actually played.

Mahjong is not only popular in China. There are millions of players in the world, and more and more are taking part in competitions. Internet is also contributing to the global development of mahjong with sites such as [www.mahjongtime.com](http://www.mahjongtime.com) where thousands of players can gather each day.



### **The French Mahjong Federation – FFMJ**

The FFMJ was created during the first European mahjong championship, on the 24th of June 2005 in Nijmegen, in the Netherlands.

The European Mahjong Association, EMA, was also founded the same day, during this competition.

The FFMJ is an association created under French law, whose goal is to encourage, control and direct the spread of mahjong in France and throughout the French territory. Stéphane Parcollet has been president since its creation.

[www.ffmahjong.com](http://www.ffmahjong.com)

### **The Magic Mahjong Social Pung - MMSP**

In June 2005, Laurent Mahé took part in the 1st European mahjong competition. He was among the founding members of the FFMJ and created the MMSP club in Paris.

<http://magicmahjong.free.fr>

### **Fleur d'Orchidée – FDO**

Olivier Boivin left MMSP in June 2007 to create the FDO club in Villejuif, in the suburbs south of Paris.

<http://fleurdorhidee.free.fr>





## THE TOURNAMENT 2007 edition

On April 14th 2007, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Paris international mahjong tournament was organized by the FFMJ and the MMSP. The tournament took place in the Reine Blanche theatre in the 18th arrondissement of Paris.

It was the most important mahjong tournament ever organized in France. 84 players from nine different European countries competed over four 90 minute sets. The organizer, Laurent Mahé, felt the tournament was a success, with a high level of competition, and the presence of the top-seeded European players from Austria, Hungary, Denmark, Belgium, Sweden, and from parts of France such as Bordeaux, Lille, Grenoble, Toulouse, the Reunion and Paris.

Marianne Croeze won the tournament, a first EMA victory for Blom1234, her *MahjongTime* pseudonym.

Third place went to Mathieu Ugo, a 13 year old player from the island of the Reunion. Thus French vice-champion for 2006 became French Champion in 2007.



1<sup>st</sup> Marianne Croeze - Netherlands (centre)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Martin Mauthner - Austria (right)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Mathieu Ugo - France (left)



## THE TOURNAMENT 2008 edition

This year the tournament will be held from Friday, April 25th to Sunday the 27th, in the Rossini theatre of the town hall of the Paris 9th arrondissement.

**Salle Rossini – Mairie du 9<sup>ème</sup>  
6, rue Drouot 75009 Paris**

120 players from around the world.  
30 playing tables  
6 sets of 2 hours

The tournament has received the EMA agreement and will count for European ranking

It is also the French championship for 2008.

Awards given:

French champion for 2008: best-ranked French player in the competition

1st, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3rd places

Best team

Best MahjongTime player

The tournament is also open to the public. Initiations will take place all weekend long, alongside the competition.

For the complete program, signing up and to see the list of players and their individual page, as well as pictures of last year's edition and press reviews:

<http://mahjong.paris.free.fr>





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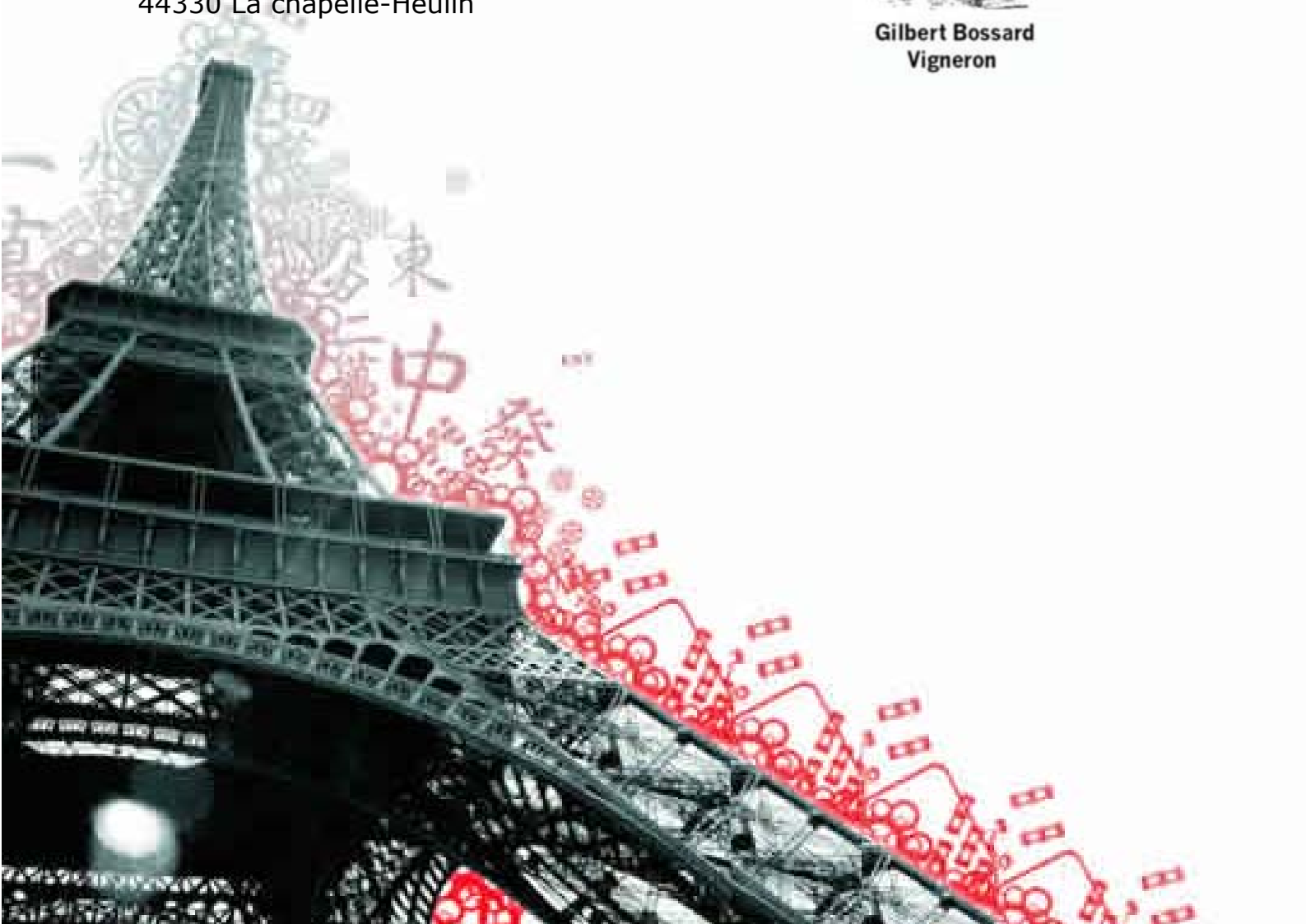
**GILBERT BOSSARD**

**Independent winemaker**

44330 La chapelle-Heulin



**Gilbert Bossard  
Vigneron**



**Press Contact:** Joseph Visser

📧 joseph.visser@gmail.com

☎ +33 (0)6 61 92 36 78

**Organization Contact:** Laurent Mahé

📧 laurent.mahe@noos.fr

☎ +33 (0)6 12 14 39 45

<http://mahjong.paris.free.fr>

