

## BONSAI IN FRANCE, 2018

What an extraordinary couple of weekends, the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> October in Saulieu, central eastern France and the 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> October in Mulhouse, eastern France, close to the Swiss border. How did they do it? – two extraordinary bonsai events on two consecutive weekends less than 200 miles apart. Both with so much enthusiasm and energy, both amazing events with some of the best bonsai I have seen outside Japan, outclassing most of what we have seen in recent years, both in quality and quantity. Both shows with some 60 to 100 traders selling everything a bonsai enthusiast could seek, both with vast numbers of willing volunteers working long hours to ensure the events ran smoothly and securely.

Saulieu, the smaller of the two events, had an estimated 40 to 50 helpers while Mulhouse had over 100 volunteer workers. Both shows must have cost vast sums to stage – where did all the finance come from? Where did the energy and enterprise come from that provided local people and local authorities to sponsor such outstanding occasions? I will not venture to say “perfection” – that can be impossible to achieve, but I will say that both events were absolutely marvellous. I congratulate you France; you have achieved something that, currently, we in the U.K. could not begin to approach.

A few pictures to whet your appetite for superb bonsai. Malcolm took more than 400 pictures; I have a lot of selecting and editing to do before you get the full glories of the Shows

**6<sup>th</sup> European Bonsai-San Show** Saulieu, Central France, an exhibition of beautiful bonsai from all over Europe, with an exceptional quality of presentation. Organised by Frederic and Stephanie Chenal.





**A unique event at the Folie Fleur Mulhouse, France.**

A spectacular show where many bonsai events came together in Mulhouse an industrial town in the north east of France. Combining BCI (Bonsai Clubs International) Annual Show, the Bonsai Euro Top 30, the French National Show and the Folie'Flore Flower and Garden Show. Outside and in tents you could see some of Europe's top class bonsai set in a very original display arranged with music and lighting effects. Inside the main building of the Expo Park, a more traditional show was set up for the BCI event. In a large tent a big bonsai trade fair was held with many European and international traders. Organised by bonsai master François Jeker, who had worked for three years to make this a great success.



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