



An International  
Celebration of  
Grand Alpinism

# Piolets d'Or 2021



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## Press Release #1 - July 2021

**Better late than never, we are glad to announce that the 2021 edition of the Piolets d'Or will take place from the 26th-29th November in the beautiful mountain city of Briançon, France.**

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The 2021 edition will be special for three main reasons: COVID-19 heavily impacted local and international freedom of movement throughout 2020, and consequently there was much less mountaineering activity. Despite this, there were several fine surprises.

The 2021 edition will present the opportunity to revisit 30 years of alpine history seen through the prism of the Piolets d'Or. We are confident that this will trigger passionate but hopefully amicable and respectful debate.

The event will take place in the highest city in the Alps, offering unique architecture and fortifications. Briançon also provides an amazing basecamp for mountaineers. It is surrounded by various limestone

and granite ranges including the Ecrins National Park, in which lie famous peaks such as La Meije, the last of the major summits to be climbed in the Alps.

The pandemic has shrunk our physical horizon dramatically, and today there are still uncertainties and complications in planning any "remote" trip. All too often, connection with our family, friends and colleagues goes through the digital intermediary of a smartphone, tablet, or computer screen.

The Piolets d'Or is a celebration of alpine-style mountaineering. Some of its main aspects are: the spirit of exploration and innovation; full commitment to the savage environment of the high, bare mountains; economy of means and the renunciation of external resources such as oxygen, fixed ropes and support that would alter the intensity of the experience. It's kind of the opposite of sitting at home in front of a computer...

We sincerely hope to hold the event in Briançon face-to-face this year and will be doing everything possible to make this happen.

Finally, we would like to give our warmest thanks to Arnaud Murgia, the young mayor of Briançon and himself a passionate alpinist, for his support and commitment in making this event happen.



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