



**The Institute of Masters of Wine (North America)
announces the winner of
the 2009 André Crispin Commanderie de Bordeaux Scholarship**

London - 24th February 2009:

The Institute of Masters of Wine is delighted to announce that Dr. Liz Thach is the winner of the 2009 André Crispin Commanderie de Bordeaux Scholarship. The scholarship is granted annually to an outstanding student enrolled on the North American Master of Wine education programme. It is worth a substantial amount to the recipient for travel and study in Bordeaux.



Dr. Liz Thach is a second-year MW student, who passed the theory part of the examination in 2008 with the practical and dissertation remaining to pass.

Liz, a fifth generation Californian, finished her Ph.D. at Texas A&M. Now she is a management and wine business professor at Sonoma State University in the Wine Business Center where she teaches in both the undergraduate and Wine MBA programs.

Liz has 15 years of executive and management level experience at Fortune 500 companies and has done consulting and research projects for more than 30 different wineries. Liz has published over 90 articles and 4 wine books, including *Wine – A Global Business* and *Wine Marketing & Sales*.

She lives on Sonoma Mountain where she tends a small hobby vineyard and makes homemade wine.

Joel Butler MW, President of the Institute of Masters of Wine (North America), said, "The Institute of Masters of Wine (North America) is extremely pleased to honor Dr Liz Thach of Sonoma State University as the 2009 recipient of the generous bursary provided by the Commanderie de Bordeaux to further her studies in Bordeaux. We are certain that Dr Thach will come away from her week's stay in Bordeaux with knowledge and understanding that will greatly contribute to her successfully becoming a Master of Wine. The IMW (NA) greatly appreciates the Commanderie's generous contribution to furthering the education of Masters of Wine students in North America, and looks forward to Dr Thach's report after her trip."

Peter M. F. Sichel, a Governor of the Commanderie de Bordeaux aux Etats Unis d'Amerique and a Director of the Institute of Masters of Wine (North America), added, "I wish to congratulate Liz on winning the scholarship. I am convinced that she will be an excellent ambassador to represent the MW students for the chateaux owners, growers and oenologists in the Bordeaux area. The scholarship recognises Liz' commitment to excellence in wine offering a unique learning opportunity."

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Editors notes:*Note to interested applicants:*

Application forms for the Institute's Education Programme will be available from July 2009. Interested applicants should in the first instance contact Peter Csizmadia-Honigh, the Education Manager, to obtain an application form and discuss any questions they may have.

About the Institute of Masters of Wine

The Institute of Masters of Wine was established in London, England, in 1953, since when over 2000 candidates have sat its rigorous examination in the art and science of wine. In 1991, the examination was held on the same days in the UK, Australia and the USA, a pattern that continues today.

There are currently 277 members of the Institute, from 25 different countries. Although membership was opened up to non-UK members for the first time only in 1987, 85 members now come from outside the UK. The vast majority of the students are now non-British, and the Education programme is run annually in Napa Valley, California; Melbourne, Australia; Rust, Austria; and Bordeaux, France.

The Master of Wine qualification is achieved by passing three parts of the examination:

- Theory, comprising four three-hour question papers on viticulture, winemaking, the business of wine and contemporary issues
- Practical, comprising three 12-wine blind tastings of a range of international wines which are assessed for variety, origin, quality and style
- a 10,000 word Dissertation on a subject selected by the candidate, relevant to the international wine industry

Candidates come from all areas of the wine industry. The majority are active in a commercial capacity, as wholesalers, importers or retailers, from major multi-nationals to independent merchants. A growing number are involved directly with winemaking, while other occupations include journalism, public relations, the hospitality industry and wine education.

About the Commanderie de Bordeaux

The Commanderie de Bordeaux aux États-Unis d'Amérique was organized in 1957 by a small group of lovers of Bordeaux wines and became a New York corporation in 1959. Since, it has grown to include 28 chapters and some 1100 members located in different cities around the US. It is also affiliated with a worldwide network of some 63 Commanderies in 18 countries under the overall patronage of the Bordeaux-based Grand Conseil du Vin de Bordeaux (GCVB; e-mail: gcvbx@club-internet.fr). The members of these chapters get together periodically for dinners (called "parlements" from the French verb *parler*, to talk) and other events in order to enjoy, discuss, appreciate and learn more about the various wines of the Bordeaux region in their different vintages.