



THE INSTITUTE OF
MASTERS *of* WINE

INSTITUTE OF MASTERS OF WINE AWARDS CEREMONY 2008

LONDON – 7th November 2008: At its annual reception and awards presentations on 5th November, fifteen new Masters of Wine were formally welcomed to membership of the Institute of Masters of Wine and were presented with their certificates by the Master of the Vintners' Company, Mr Michael Davies. The new members of the Institute are:

- Sarah Abbott, UK
- Joanne Ahearne, UK
- Francisco (Pancho) Campo Carrasco, Spain
- James Cluer, Canada
- Martin Hudson, UK
- Jeannie Cho Lee, Hong Kong, originally from Korea
- Benjamin Lewin, USA
- Christophe Macra, France
- Debra Meiburg, Hong Kong, originally from USA
- Sara Muirhead, UK
- Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Singapore, originally from USA
- Jennifer Simonetti-Bryan, USA
- Madeleine Stenwreth, Sweden
- Dirceu Vianna Junior, UK, originally from Brazil
- Tim Wildman, UK

The following were honoured for outstanding achievement in specific areas of the MW Examination.

- **Pancho Campo MW** received the **Villa Maria Award** for excellence in the viticultural paper. It was presented by Charlotte Read on behalf of George Fistonich, owner and Managing Director of Villa Maria Estates, a Major supporter of the Institute
- **Dirceu Vianna Junior MW** won the **Viña Errazuriz Award** for excellence in the Business of Wine paper. This award is given annually by Viña Errazuriz and was presented by Philip Tuck MW of Hatch Mansfield Agencies on behalf of Viña Errazuriz.

- **Tim Wildman MW** was the winner of the **Robert Mondavi Winery Award** which is given for the best overall performance in the Theory section of the examination and was presented by Mark de Vere MW of Robert Mondavi Winery, part of Constellation Wines who are principal supporters of the Institute.
- **Lisa Perrotti-Brown MW** received the **Madame Bollinger Medal**, awarded for an outstanding performance in the Practical (tasting) part of the exam and presented by Andrew Hawes of Mentzendorff, on behalf of the Madame Bollinger Foundation.

She was also the winner of the **Tim Derouet Award**, for her outstanding performance across all three parts of the MW examination. It was presented by Victoria Baker, granddaughter of Tim Derouet.

- **Madeleine Stenwreth MW** won the **Noval Award**. This award, sponsored by AXA Millésimes (owners of Quinta do Noval and principal supporters of the Institute) was awarded to Madeleine for excellence achieved in her Masters of Wine dissertation: 'The effect of altitude on Malbec in Mendoza, Argentina', and was presented by Christian Seely, Managing Director, AXA Millésimes

The Institute also announced the **Constellation Scholarship**, awarded to the student in the Education Programme who finished at the top of her year in the first year assessment. This year, it was awarded to **Caro Maurer**, a German student, by Troy Christensen, CEO of Constellation Europe. Caro receives round the world business class travel to visit Constellation's wineries, including those in Australia, New Zealand and the USA.

Dr Josef Schuller MW, Chairman of the Institute of Masters of Wine, said,

'Our fifteen new MWs from eight different countries are further proof of how the Institute is developing globally. To have our first Asian, Spanish, and Brazilian MWs and two further Asian-based members will enable us to build in those exciting markets.'

Enquiries:

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Information for Editors

Biographies for 2008 Masters of Wine

Sarah Abbott, is MD of Swirl, which provides professional wine consultancy and bespoke tastings to clients in the wine trade and wider business community, having begun her career in the trade with Burgundy specialist Domaines Direct, and then Italian specialist Winetraders, for whom she now consults. Her love of wine, and food, runs in the family: both her mother and uncle are chef-restaurateurs.

Joanne Ahearne, is a winemaker and wine technologist at Marks & Spencer plc in London, UK, having worked for eight years as a winemaker in Australia, including at Charles Melton and Orlando Wyndham.

Francisco (Pancho) Campo Carrasco, Born in Chile and brought up in Barcelona from the age of 13, Pancho has had an exciting career. He began as a tennis pro and trained as a doctor, before turning to event management, which he combined with coaching the Qatari Davis Cup tennis team.. He has had a longstanding love of wine, which eventually became a career in 2003 when he started the Wine Academy of Spain, having studied winemaking and marketing at UC Davis. Pancho is a passionate speaker on climate change, and has done much to raise the global wine industry's awareness of the problem, working closely with former US Vice President Al Gore as a member of the Climate Project. Pancho is married to Melissa, and has two children. His hobbies include skiing, body building and restaurants.

James Cluer, James passed his Dissertation and became a Master of Wine in May this year. He is the owner of Fine Vintage Ltd in Vancouver, Canada, and consults for the British Columbia Government, manages the selection of wines for the award-winning Qatar Airways and is the wine adviser to Fairmont Hotels and Resorts.

Martin Hudson, is a long time and avid consumer of wine who passed his WSET Diploma while still designing computer cables. He joined Oddbins as a Wine Adviser in 2002, and Berry Bros. & Rudd in 2003, where he works as a wine educator and in the retail outlet.

Jeannie Cho Lee, is the founder and director of Grape Expectations Asia Ltd, and Head of Education at the Fine Wine School in Hong Kong, a partnership with Berry Bros. & Rudd. Born in Korea, Jeannie grew up principally in the US. Her interest in wine began at Oxford University, continued through her Masters in Public Policy at Harvard, and flourished in Hong Kong, where she also works as a journalist. She writes regularly for various international magazines, including *Wine Spectator*, *The World of Fine Wine*, Cathay Pacific's *Discovery*, and *Wine Business International*. Jeannie also holds a Certificat de Cuisine from Cordon Bleu. She is married with four children, and her hobbies include golf and cooking.

Benjamin Lewin, was a molecular biologist and founding editor of the international journal *Cell* before fulfilling a life-long passion and turning to wine as a second career. He has just completed his book *What price Bordeaux?* and is presently working on his next book, *Wine Myths and Reality*.

Christophe Macra, started his professional life as a software consultant, working initially in the strategy practice of KPMG Consulting France for several major international companies, and then setting up his own company focusing on intranet and extranet platforms. Having given in to his passion for wine, Christophe is now the Managing Director of Esensio, which runs wine tasting events and wine education courses, although he still is involved in software consulting.

Debra E Meiburg, is a long time resident of Hong Kong, originally from Sonoma County. She has worked harvest in Chile, pruned vines in Bordeaux and was a cellar-hand in New York. Now she is a wine judge, wine educator and journalist with the South China Morning Post and Asian Tatler. In 2007 she was voted Most Influential Wine Journalist in Hong Kong.

Sara Muirhead, After a degree in law and French law, Sara swiftly moved into the wine industry, starting as French Programme Manager for Arblaster & Clarke, before joining Liberty Wines as Marketing Manager in 1999. In 2005 she set up Wineprose, specialising in PR, marketing and event organisation for the UK wine trade.

Lisa Perrotti-Brown, was born in rural Maine, and moved to London with designs on becoming a playwright. To make ends meet she worked in a wine bar, the start of a growing passion for wine. In 2002 Lisa moved to Tokyo where she worked as a wine buyer for one of Japan's top fine wine importers, and used the Tokyo base to travel throughout Asia. She now lives in Singapore, where she is working on developing and hosting a new section, "In Asia" of www.erobertparker.com.

Jennifer Simonetti-Bryan, is National Champagne and Wine Educator for Remy Cointreau USA in New York. Her entry into the wine industry was not predictable, as a US "Air Force brat" raised in a family who didn't drink wine. She left a lucrative position at Citicorp London in 1999 to pursue her passion for wine, and started at a retail store in Greenwich Village, Manhattan, swiftly moving to Kobrand as an event and brand manager. Jennifer is an avid golfer, and has a brown belt in Tae Kwon Do.

Madeleine Stenwreth, was brought up in a restaurateur family, which sparked her love of wine. In 1990 she became a Sommelier, a profession that took her to South Africa. Her interest in South African wine led to the creation of the Sweden branch of Wines of South Africa, and was part of her portfolio as a wine buyer at Systembolaget. She is now Quality and New Products Development Manager at PrimeWine Sweden.

Dirceu Vianna Junior, originally from Brazil, has lived in the UK since 1989 and becomes the first Brazilian Master of Wine. He is Wine Development Director at Coe Vintners, a judge at selected wine competitions, and a wine educator.

Tim Wildman, started his wine career at Oddbins before moving to Cachet Wines in 2002 and last year to Les Caves de Pyrène to set up a UK national distribution arm. When not working, he competes in triathlons.

Background to the Institute

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.

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.

There are currently 277 members of the Institute, from 23 different countries. Although membership was opened up to non-UK members for the first time only in 1987, 92 members now come from outside the UK, and the vast majority of current students are non-British.

In addition to running the Examination and the two year Education Programme in preparation for the Examination, the Institute organises a number of continuing professional development and social events for its membership and other interested people. These include international symposia (most recently in Napa Valley, California in June 2006, and the next in Bordeaux in June 2010), annual single vintage tastings of Burgundy, Bordeaux, and Northern Rhone wines and an annual vertical tasting of a Bordeaux classed growth, along with one-off events looking at a particular style or region in more depth.