



THE INSTITUTE OF MASTERS OF WINE ANNOUNCES AWARD WINNERS AT ITS ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

London, 6 November 2009

At its annual reception and awards ceremony at Vintners' Hall on Wednesday 4th November, eight Masters of Wine (MWs) were formally welcomed into membership of the Institute of Masters of Wine (IMW). The following received their certificates from the Master of the Vintners' Company, Sam Cox:

- Susie Barrie (UK)
- Michael Collier (UK)
- Roman Horvath (Austria)
- Isabelle Legeron (France, living in UK)
- Tim Marson (UK)
- Tuomas Meriluoto (Finland)
- Frank Roeder (Germany)
- Mai Tjemsland (Norway)

At the ceremony three of the new MWs were honoured with awards for outstanding performance in specific parts of the Examination:

- **Susie Barrie MW** received the **Institute of Masters of Wine Outstanding Achievement Award**. This award, supported by the Austrian Wine Marketing Board, is for outstanding achievement in the overall IMW Examination and was presented by Willi Klinger of the Austrian Wine Marketing Board and Dr Josef Schuller MW, Chairman of the Institute of Masters of Wine. The Austrian Wine Marketing Board is a Principal Supporter of the IMW
- She was also the winner of the **Noval Award** for the best Dissertation, which was presented by Christian Seely, Managing Director of AXA Millésimes, owner of Quinta do Noval. Her topic was '*UK market attitudes towards brut nature champagne*'. AXA Millésimes is a Principal Supporter of the IMW.
- Susie also received the **Robert Mondavi Winery Award** for excellence in the Theory part of the Examination. The award was presented by Mark de Vere MW of Robert Mondavi Winery. Constellation, which owns the Robert Mondavi Winery, is a Major Supporter of the IMW.

- **Isabelle Legeron MW** was awarded the **Madame Bollinger Medal** for excellence in the Practical (tasting) papers of the Examination. This award was presented by Arnould d’Hautefeuille, president of Société Jacques Bollinger and of the Madame Bollinger Foundation. The Madame Bollinger Foundation has been a Major Supporter of the IMW for over 20 years.
- Isabelle also received the **Villa Maria Award** for excellence in the viticulture paper. This award was presented by Charlotte Read of Villa Maria. Villa Maria is a Major Supporter of the IMW.
- **Roman Horvath MW** received the **Viña Errázuriz Award** for excellence in the business of wine paper. This award was presented by Philip Tuck MW of Hatch Mansfield, agents for Viña Errázuriz in the UK. Viña Errázuriz is a Major Supporter of the IMW.

Dr Josef Schuller MW, Chairman of the Institute of Masters of Wine, said: ‘I am really delighted that the Institute continues to increase its international membership year on year. I recognise just how many sacrifices these eight MWs - and their families and friends - have made to reach their goal.’ He added: ‘Speaking personally, I am delighted to be able to welcome a colleague from the Austrian wine industry to the Institute. Further I cannot fail to highlight the continuing trend of outstanding performances by women candidates in the Examination, which is helping to increase the proportion of women members of the Institute overall.’

ENDS

Enquiries:

Siobhan Turner, Executive Director, IMW

+44 20 7621 2830

Email: sturner@mastersofwine.org

About the new MWs:

Susie Barrie MW is a freelance journalist, author, television and radio presenter from Winchester, UK.

Michael Collier MW is a wine consultant based in Surrey, UK.

Roman Horvath MW is Managing Director of Domäne Wachau in Austria. He is the second Austrian to become an MW.

Isabelle Legeron MW is a French-born educator, event organiser and broadcaster, living in London, UK. She is the first French woman to become an MW.

Tim Marson MW is a wine buyer for Bibendum in London, UK.

Tuomas Meriluoto MW is Managing Director of WineState, an importer in Finland. He is the first male MW from Finland.

Frank Roeder MW is Founder and Chief Executive of VIT, a wine distribution company based in Saar, Germany.

Mai Tjemsland MW is owner of GastroConsult, a restaurant, catering and wine club group in Oslo. She is the first female MW from Norway.

About the Institute of Masters of Wine Outstanding Achievement Award:

- This replaces the replaces the Tim Derouet Award.

About the Institute of Masters of Wine:

- The Institute of Masters of Wine (IMW) is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to promoting excellence in the wine trade. It was founded in 1955.
- The IMW has 279 members (MWs), based in 22 countries.
- The IMW's education programme encourages a cross-disciplinary approach to understanding wine and communicating that knowledge at the highest level. The IMW holds annual study seminars in Napa Valley, USA; Adelaide, Australia; and Rust, Austria.
- The annual examinations take place in London, Napa and Sydney, over a four-day period. There are three practical papers, each with 12 wines. Candidates are required to blind taste and identify wines of varying quality levels and origins. In four theory papers, candidates need to demonstrate, through essays, a knowledge of a wide range of subjects, including winemaking, grape growing, business and social issues. Students also write a 10,000-word dissertation on a subject of their choice.
- The IMW also organises events of professional interest to the global wine trade, including an international symposium every four years. The next symposium, *Forging Links*, takes place from 24 to 27 June 2010 in Bordeaux; see www.mwsymposium.com.
- More information about the Institute and its activities, including full biographies and contact details of the new MWs as well existing members, can be found at www.mastersofwine.org.