



THE INSTITUTE OF
MASTERS of WINE

The Australian Wine Research Institute



The Institute of Masters of Wine welcomes strategic partnership with The Australian Wine Research Institute

London – Adelaide: 9th July 2009

In a joint press release, issued today, The Australian Wine Research Institute (AWRI) and the Institute of Masters of Wine (IMW) announced a cooperation agreement which contributes to the continued professional development of members of the Institute of Masters of Wine.

Professor Sakkie Pretorius, Managing Director of the AWRI, said “We acknowledge that wine professionals who graduate from the MW program become opinion leaders globally. It is in the best interests of our industry that these leaders have an understanding of the unique support of science and quality assurance behind Australian wine production.”

Siobhan Turner, Executive Director, The Institute of Masters of Wine, commented “We are grateful for the AWRI’s support of the Institute’s Education Programme, and to developing our students’ understanding of the contribution of Australia to the global wine industry. We look forward to working with them, both in Adelaide and at the Institute’s other education seminars around the world.”

Con Simos, Group Manager – Industry Development and Support for the AWRI will facilitate the AWRI’s contribution to the IMW. “The AWRI will assist the IMW in hosting its Australasian seminar annually, and we will make available one place in our four-day Advanced Wine Assessment Course to an IMW member”, he said. “The AWRI will also conduct its ‘Faults and taints’ workshop at IMW seminars. What this means is that IMW members will gain a greater appreciation of how science is contributing to quality wine being produced in Australia that is fault-free – allowing regional characters or winemaking style being truly expressed.”

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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 274 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.

Application for the 2010 MW education programme

The Institute now accepts applications for the 2010 education programme. Prospective students will need to submit the application form along with two assignments by 28th August 2009. All the necessary documents are available from www.mastersofwine.org.

Forging Links Symposium – Bordeaux, 24-27 June 2010

The next most significant global wine event will be organised by the Institute of Masters of Wine in Bordeaux. This symposium will bring together the most influential personalities in the global wine trade. To see a detailed programme and to book, visit

www.mwsymposium.com.