



## YALUMBA SCHOLARSHIP 2010

LONDON, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2009

The Institute of Masters of Wine and Yalumba, Australia's oldest family-owned winery, are delighted to announce the call to applicants for the Yalumba Scholarship. Yalumba recognises the challenges that the Institute's internationalisation efforts encounter and is excited to offer its continued support, worth up to £3,000.

This scholarship is awarded annually to one Europe or Americas-based, second-year MW student enrolled on the full education programme. This generous scholarship consists of:

- a return flight ticket on economy class to the MW seminar in Melbourne from a major city near the winner's hometown;
- accommodation for the duration of the MW seminar in Melbourne; and
- a one-week visit to the Yalumba vineyard, nursery and winery in Angaston (a return flight ticket on economy class from Melbourne to Adelaide, accommodation and visits)

Selection for the scholarship will be in the form of an essay (1000 words in length, written in English). The essay topic is:

***“There is no fundamental or systemic problem with the Australian wine sector; it is going through a cycle where after many years of popularity, other regions, countries or styles are garnering more interest from the gatekeepers”.***

***Discuss the validity of this statement and suggest ways to overcome the current problems facing the Australian Wine Industry in re-building the awareness of its regional and varietal diversity.***

Application forms for the Yalumba Scholarship are available on the Institute's website, or candidates may get a copy by contacting Peter Csizmadia-Honigh, the Education Manager. The winner will be expected to produce a short report about the visit to Yalumba, which will be published on the Institute's website for the benefit of other MW students.

**Siobhan Turner**, Executive Director of the Institute, said: "I am delighted that Yalumba has offered this generous scholarship for the third year running. For the winner it is an exceptional opportunity to benefit from the learning experience that Yalumba provides in the vineyard, winery and nursery. This scholarship also enables the Institute to achieve its goal of internationalization for which we are grateful."

Fifth generation **Yalumba** Proprietor, **Robert Hill Smith** said, "On the ground experience is a crucial part of education for all wine enthusiasts. The winner will have the rare opportunity to work alongside our experienced viti and vini teams and have our wider resources at their disposal for the duration of their visit. We look forward to receiving responses and anticipate that these will be both insightful and interesting - we are very pleased to offer this scholarship once again."

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### **Notes to editors:**

#### **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 23 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.
- In 2009, one-third of the students who sat the Examination were not native English speakers.
- 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](http://www.mwsymposium.com).
- More information about the Institute and its activities, including full biographies and contact details of members, can be found at [www.mastersofwine.org](http://www.mastersofwine.org).

#### **Notes on Yalumba**

Yalumba of today continues to remain fiercely independent and extremely progressive under the ownership of fifth generation Robert and Sam Hill Smith, sons of Wyndham and Helen Hill Smith and for almost 160 years, Yalumba has played a pivotal role in the Barossa, making wines that reflect the best of region.

Yalumba was founded by Dorset brewer Samuel Smith in 1849, who brought his family to Angaston seeking a new life. After purchasing a 30-acre parcel of land just beyond the village of Angaston, Smith and his son Sidney began planting the first vines by moonlight. Samuel named his patch "Yalumba" – Aboriginal for "all the land around."

It is not just Yalumba's work with the Viognier grape variety that warrants its reputation as a pioneering company. Yalumba is the sole company in Australia to craft its own oak barrels. In addition to the cooperage, Yalumba counts a wine nursery among its prized assets, which enables the winemakers to have a significant input into grape quality from an early stage. Today, this viticultural nursery specialises at the high end of vine breeding, and has winery and winegrower clients across all states.

Yalumba has also been influential in its strong policies on recycling, making sure that every effort is made to certify that waste and water are recycled, as well as ensuring energy is saved and the general environmental impact of the winery is minimised.

As a result, Yalumba is the first winery in the world to receive the Climate Protection Award from the Environmental Protection Agency in 2007.