



VDP. Die Prädikatsweingüter

The Institute of Masters of Wine and the VDP Invite Applicants for the VDP Bursaries

London – 23rd July 2009

The Institute of Masters of Wine and the VDP are delighted to invite applicants for the 2009 VDP Bursaries. The bursaries will enable three Master of Wine students to participate between 27th and 30th September 2009 in the presentation of the Grosses Gewaechs, the highest classification level of quality German wines, in the workshops of the 2nd European Conference for Wine Education held at the Geisenheim Research Institute and in visits to select VDP producers. The bursaries will cover the costs of the travel (to a maximum of €250) and the stay in Germany, making them worth approx €1,500 per person.

The three VDP Bursaries will be awarded to MW students from anywhere around the world and at any stage of their MW studies. The winners of these bursaries will be selected by essay. Interested students should send their essay along with a completed application form to the Institute's office in London.

Siobhan Turner, *Executive Director of the Institute*, said, "We are very grateful to the VDP for this excellent opportunity for three of our students to participate in the presentation of the Grosses Gewaechs. It will be a fabulous educational experience for the winners."

Eva Raps, *Managing Director of the VDP*, said: "The VDP is very happy to have good relationship with the Institute of Masters of Wine and many of its members. We are aware that all its members are important ambassadors for fine wines throughout the world. On the other side, we also appreciate their judgements and viewpoints, coming from the market and not the producer side. We hope that the VDP Bursaries will assist the winning students in achieving the Master of Wine qualification and help to intensify the dialogue between the Institute and the VDP's members."

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 272 members of the Institute, from 22 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; Adelaide, 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.

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About the VDP

The VDP Prädikatsweingüter (Association of German Prädikat Wine Estates) has been synonymous with Germany's finest wines for well over a century. Working hand in hand with nature, they cultivate traditional grape varieties, particularly Riesling and the Pinot varieties, in top sites throughout Germany's 13 wine-growing regions. Each of the 200 VDP estates is devoted to achieving the highest quality possible, yet each retains an individual style and thus, reflects the fascinating diversity of viticulture.

Those who appreciate fine wine know the VDP logo – a stylized eagle bearing a cluster of grapes: the symbol of ultimate pleasure.

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