



THE INSTITUTE OF
MASTERS *of* WINE

Winner of 2010 Selection Schwander Scholarship Announced

A Dutch student in the Institute of Masters of Wine education programme has been named as the recipient of the 2010 Selection Schwander Scholarship.

Winner Chantal Smeets, 27, was brought up in a wine-loving family and progressed through tastings and wine appreciation courses to completing her WSET Diploma in the Netherlands. In 2008, she started running her family's small winery in Bordeaux, Château Cadaulan. There she is involved in practically every aspect of production, from vinification through to PR and sales.

The Selection Schwander Scholarship, established in 2009, rewards a student who performs exceptionally well in the First Year Assessment and whose first language is not English. The award contributes to the winner's study, translation and examination costs up to a value of £3,000.

More than 270 students from 28 different countries are currently studying towards the Master of Wine title with the Institute. There are currently 289 Masters of Wine in the world, based across 23 different countries. Established in 1953, the Master of Wine remains the most highly respected and sought after professional qualification in the world of wine today.

Philipp Schwander MW founded his Selection Schwander mail order wine business in 2003, following a career in the wine trade, and is a regular columnist and broadcaster. He qualified in 1996 and is thus far the only Swiss Master of Wine.

Philipp Schwander MW said: "I am pleased to support the continuing internationalisation of the Institute by rewarding talented students whose first language is not English. Chantal is a talented student and I wish her every success in her studies towards attaining her MW."

Chantal Smeets said: "I feel that the MW education programme is very helpful to me as I get to meet and learn from people originating from every aspect of the wine trade and every kind of background. I am delighted to be the second ever recipient of this generous scholarship."

Lynne Sherriff MW, Chairman of the Institute, said: "Our congratulations go to Chantal, whose hard work and talent has earned her this scholarship. More than 100 MWs now live and work outside the UK and the interest from all quarters of the international wine community continues to grow. Philipp's initiative in providing the scholarship can only help to support these positive trends in the future."

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The Institute of Masters of Wine

Founded in 1955, The Institute of Masters of Wine is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to promoting educational and professional excellence across the global wine trade.

The Institute has 289 members (Masters of Wine, normally abbreviated to MW after a member's name) based in 23 countries. Masters of Wine are active in all aspects of the wine industry and include winemakers, importers, buyers, retailers, consultants, journalists, educators, sommeliers and senior executives.

The Institute's education programme encourages a cross-disciplinary approach to understanding wine and communicating that knowledge at the highest level. It prepares students for the Masters of Wine examination.

The annual Masters of Wine examination takes place concurrently in London, Napa and Sydney, over a four-day period, usually during the month of June. 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, knowledge of a wide range of subjects including winemaking, grape growing, business and social issues. Students must also write a 10,000-word dissertation on a subject of their choice. Only after passing all parts of the examination and completing their dissertation can someone be admitted to the membership of the Institute and use the title Master of Wine.

In addition to its education and examination programmes, the Institute organises annual events which are open to its members, students and the wider wine trade. These events offer outstanding professional development opportunities and include tastings, seminars, debates, visits to wine producing regions and master classes with the world's leading wine producers.

The Institute is privileged to work with a distinguished group of individuals, businesses and organisations which share its values and recognise the importance of promoting the highest standards of educational achievement and professional conduct within the wine community. In particular, its international community of corporate supporters plays a vital role in assisting the delivery of the Institute's worldwide education, examination and events programmes. Each supporter helps to fund a specific area of activity, which is usually aligned with their own corporate objectives, and their contributions help to ensure that the Institute continues to uphold the tradition of excellence which it has established since its foundation in 1955. The Principal Supporters of the Institute are AXA Millésimes and the Austrian Wine Marketing Board.

More information about the Institute and its activities, including biographies of the Masters of Wine, can be found at the Institute's www.mastersofwine.org website