



THE INSTITUTE OF
MASTERS *of* WINE

2010 Champagne Trinity Scholarship Winner Announced

London, 23 March 2010

A Singapore-based student in the Institute of Masters of Wine education programme has been announced as the winner of the prestigious Champagne Trinity Scholarship for 2010.

Tan Ying Hsien has been awarded the scholarship for his original essay addressing the question of “how to manage a champagne brand through a recession”.

The Institute, with the support of the Champagne houses of Bollinger, Louis Roederer and Pol Roger, offers the scholarship annually to a first-year student participating in its international education programme.

The scholarship consists of two consecutive trips to the Champagne region, one during vintage and another during the blending of the *vins clairs* in the spring. It provides a unique opportunity for a student to gain an insight into Champagne through visits to the three renowned, family-owned houses.

The Institute is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to promoting professional excellence and the highest educational standards in the global wine trade. It was founded in London in 1955 and today it is a truly international organisation with a membership of 279 individual Masters of Wine based in 22 countries.

Since 1992 the Institute’s education programme for wine trade professionals has been delivered on three continents: Europe, Australasia and North America. More than 240 students from 24 countries are currently studying in the programme which leads to the Masters of Wine examination. On successful completion of the examination, which tests both practical and theoretical understanding of all aspects of the art, science and business of wine, students must finally write a 10,000 word original dissertation. Only then are they eligible to join the Institute, abide by its Code of Conduct and use the title Master of Wine or its abbreviated form MW, which is recognised as the highest achievement in the wine industry.

On behalf of the sponsoring Champagne houses, Andrew Hawes, Managing Director of wine shipper Mentzendorff & Co., which represents Bollinger in the UK, said: “It gives us the greatest pleasure to award the 2010 Champagne Trinity Scholarship to Tan Ying Hsien, who submitted a

poignant and well written essay. We very much look forward to welcoming him to Champagne in September for the harvest and again in the Spring for the *vins clairs* tasting.”

Tan Ying Hsien was born in Singapore and is currently a first year student on the Institute of Masters of Wine education programme. He is a lawyer by training and spent most of his professional career providing legal and compliance advice in-house to major international banks. He started tasting and studying wine in 1983 while pursuing university studies in the United Kingdom. He has visited all the classic wine regions of France as well as to some of the wine regions of Italy, Spain, Portugal, South Africa, Australia, the USA and the Russian Tsar’s former cellars. He was on the tasting panel of Wine & Dine Singapore for a number of years and has served as a judge in International Wine Challenges held in Singapore. He also co-hosted the wine segment of the Wine & Dine TV series broadcast on Channel News Asia. He currently tastes for the The Local Nose, gives wine talks and is engaged in wine education. He is a member of the Confrérie des Chevaliers du Tastevin, Commanderie de Bordeaux and Ordre des Coteaux de Champagne.

Mr. Tan said: “I am delighted to have been awarded the scholarship. In my passion for wine, champagne ranks at the top of my list of wines to be passionate about. It will be a great privilege and honour to be able to visit the houses of Bollinger, Louis Roederer and Pol Roger to see at first hand the art and craft of fine champagne making.

“Champagne is a unique product associated with high quality, style and elegance - an image that has been cultivated and preserved for hundreds of years. The scholarship will provide a marvellous opportunity to see how these great champagne houses have achieved this consistently over time. I am very grateful to the Institute of Masters of Wine and the three sponsoring champagne houses for providing this opportunity,” said Mr Tan.

Siobhan Turner, Executive Director of the Institute said: “This valuable scholarship provides a wonderful learning opportunity for our students. Tan Ying Hsien’s success this year will allow him to see the work of the three distinguished Champagne houses through personal visits, which will assist him enormously in his studies with the goal of becoming a Master of Wine.”

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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 professional and educational excellence in the global wine trade.

The Institute has 279 members (Masters of Wine, normally abbreviated to MW after a member’s name) based in 22 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 and prepares students for the Master of Wine examination. It holds annual study seminars for its students in Cookham, United Kingdom; Napa Valley, USA; Adelaide, Australia; and Rust, Austria. More than 240 students from 24 countries are currently engaged in the Institute's education programme.

The annual Master 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 can someone be admitted to the membership of the Institute and use the title Master of Wine, or its abbreviated form MW.

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.

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