



THE INSTITUTE OF
MASTERS *of* WINE

Lynne Sherriff MW Appointed IMW Chairman

Lynne Sherriff MW has been elected as Chairman of the Institute of Masters of Wine and will serve in the role for the next two years.

Lynne is an independent wine consultant based in London and was one of the first two South Africans to become Masters of Wine, in 1993.

She was unanimously elected to the post at the Institute's Annual General Meeting at Vintners' Hall in London and succeeds Dr. Josef "Pepi" Schuller MW, who stepped down after his two year-term in office.

The Institute was founded in 1955 and today has 289 members based in 23 different countries. It is the membership organisation of Masters of Wine and promotes educational and professional excellence in the wine community internationally. It delivers an education programme which prepares candidates for the rigorous annual Masters of Wine Examination and stages events which offer outstanding learning and professional development opportunities for the wine trade.

On formally accepting the post, Lynne outlined her commitment to continuing the significant work on internationalisation carried out by her predecessors.

"Membership of the Institute is a special honour and affords us many advantages in the world of wine. As Chairman, I intend to contribute to its continuing international success," said Lynne.

"Pepi Schuller did an enormous amount in this area and leaves big shoes to fill. Maintaining and expanding our international presence will therefore be a priority for me and I look forward to working with the membership and our wider community of supporters to achieve this."

On stepping down from office, Dr. Schuller said: "It was an enormous honour to be elected the first non-British Chairman of the Institute in 2008. Since then, both the membership and the community of students who aspire to be MWs has grown and I am very grateful to all those who have supported me in my work, sharing our passion and vision for excellence in wine."

In addition to Lynne's appointment, the Institute's membership elected Jean-Michel Valette MW as Vice Chairman, Sarah Jane Evans MW as Deputy Vice Chairman and Laura Evans MW

as Treasurer. Konstantinos Lazarakis MW, Christophe Macra MW and Philip Tuck MW were elected as new members of the Institute's governing Council.

Ends (13.09.10)

Media Contact

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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, while its longest standing supporter is the Madame Bollinger Foundation.

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.