



THE INSTITUTE OF  
MASTERS *of* WINE

## **Institute of Masters of Wine Welcomes Opus One as a Supporter**

The Institute of Masters of Wine is delighted to announce a new support arrangement with Opus One.

Starting in June 2010, Opus One will host the annual Masters of Wine examination in North America for students in the Institute's international education programme. Opus One will also stage a reception for students at the end of the four-day examination.

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. The examination is held concurrently in the United Kingdom, Australia and North America over four days every year, usually during June. 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.

The 2010 Masters of Wine examination will take place concurrently from 1 to 4 June in three locations: Opus One in California, London in the United Kingdom and Sydney, Australia.

Opus One is the story of a shared dream of two great men of wine: Baron Philippe de Rothschild of Château Mouton Rothschild and renowned Napa Valley vintner Robert Mondavi. Having met for the first time in Hawaii in 1970, the partners eventually agreed to launch a wine together in the Napa Valley. The joint venture they named Opus One produced its first vintage in 1979 and opened as a winery in 1991.

Situated in the Oakville appellation of Napa Valley, Opus One's vineyards comprise 169 acres and are planted to the traditional grape varieties of Bordeaux: Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Petit Verdot. Producing about 250,000 bottles each year, Opus One remains dedicated to uncompromised quality and to expressing the vision and passionate spirit of its founders, for generations to come.

David Pearson, CEO of Opus One, said: “It’s a great pleasure to support the Institute of Masters of Wine and contribute to the kind of international partnership upon which Opus One was based. We salute the Institute’s ability to renew itself by attracting remarkable new talent and by holding a keen vision of stewardship across the world of wine.”

Siobhan Turner, Executive Director of the Institute said: “We are delighted to welcome Opus One as an official supporter of the Institute. Since its foundation, the Institute’s mission to promote educational and professional excellence has enjoyed the valuable support of leading companies and organisations from the wine community. Opus One’s support will provide first class facilities for our annual examination in North America and is an important development in our evolving relationship with the international wine industry.”

Ends (1 March 2010)

### **Notes to Editors:**

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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](http://www.mastersofwine.org) website.

### **Opus One**

Opus One, a partnership between Baron Philippe de Rothschild, S.A, and Constellation Brands, Inc., produces luxury wines at its Napa Valley winery in Oakville, California. The 2006 vintage is distributed in all 50 U.S. states and 65 countries worldwide.

More information on Opus One can be found at its [www.opusonewinery.com](http://www.opusonewinery.com) website.