



THE INSTITUTE OF
MASTERS *of* WINE



Recipient of Inaugural Esterházy Bursary Announced

The Institute of Masters of Wine and the Esterházy Foundation, one of its major supporters, are delighted to announce that Patrick Schmitt is the recipient of the inaugural Esterházy Bursary.

Patrick is a first year student in the Institute's study programme which prepares candidates for the Masters of Wine Examination. He is based in London and is Editor of the wine and spirits industry publication *The Drinks Business*.

His success was announced on 19 January at a reception hosted at Schloss Esterházy during the Institute's residential seminar in Rust, Austria, for first year students.

The bursary is open to 1st and 2nd year students of the Institute and consists of £2,000 which can be set against Institute education or examination fees.

Entries had to be submitted in the form of an essay, written in either English or German, addressing the following topic:

“Central European wine identity: myth or reality?”

More than 270 students from 28 different countries are currently studying towards the Master of Wine title with the Institute. There are currently 288 Masters of Wine in the world, based across 23 different countries. Established in 1953, Master of Wine remains the most highly respected and hardest to attain professional qualification in the world of wine today.

Dr. Stefan Ottrubay, General Manager of the Esterházy Foundation said: “We were impressed by the quality of entries for the bursary and are delighted to be able to support Patrick in his studies towards achieving the wine industry's most respected title.”

Lynne Sherriff MW, Chairman of the Institute, said: “The Esterházy Foundation contributes to both our international education and events programmes since it became a major supporter of our work in 2009. This bursary provides valuable assistance to wine professionals who aspire to be amongst the next generation of Masters of Wine and our congratulations go to Patrick on becoming its first ever recipient.”

Ends (20.01.11)

Media Contact

Nathaniel Anderson, Communications Manager, The Institute of Masters of Wine

T: +44 (0)207 621 2830

E: nanderson@mastersofwine.org

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 288 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