



THE INSTITUTE OF
MASTERS *of* WINE

Institute Receives International Vinality Award 2011

The Institute of Masters of Wine was honoured with the International Vinality Award 2011 at a presentation in Verona last night.

Lynne Sherriff MW, Chairman of the Institute, accepted the award on behalf of the Institute at the Vinality gala dinner.

The award, presented annually since 1996, recognises individuals or organisations promoting the spread of wine culture and production improvements.

The Institute currently has 288 members who are resident in 23 different countries. These Masters of Wine are active in all aspects of the international wine industry. Through its members and activities the Institute promotes excellence, interaction and learning, across all sectors of the global wine community.

More than 250 wine professionals from 28 different countries are currently enrolled in the Institute's education programme which helps to prepare candidates for the annual Master of Wine Examination.

Speaking after receiving the award, Lynne Sherriff MW said: "I am honoured to accept this award on behalf of all the Masters of Wine, past and present. The Institute is a community of individuals united by a passion for excellence in wine and seeks to encourage others in the pursuit of knowledge. We place great value on bringing wine communities together and we are delighted to accept this award in recognition of our work in this area over almost 60 years."

Previous recipients of the International Vinality Award include: Corinne Mentzelopoulos of Château Margaux (1997); Robert Mondavi (1998); Pablo Alvarez (1999), Penfolds (2000), Krug (2006); Hannes Myburgh of Meerlust in South Africa (2007); Hugh Johnson OBE (2008); and Jeannie Cho Lee MW and Lidia Bastianich (2009).

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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. It has 288 members (Masters of Wine, normally abbreviated to MW after a member's name) based in 23 countries. They 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 annual Master of Wine Examination. More than 250 students from 28 countries are currently engaged in the Institute's education programme.

The 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.