



## CARMEN STEVENS & ROLAND PEENS WIN THE INSTITUTE OF MASTERS OF WINE CHAIRMAN'S SCHOLARSHIPS

LONDON 27<sup>th</sup> November 2007: The Institute of Masters of Wine is delighted to announce that Carmen Stevens, of Amani Vineyards; and Roland Peens, of Wine Cellar, have won the 2008 Chairman's Scholarships.

This scholarship is awarded annually at the discretion of the Chairman of the Institute, and provides the successful candidate with:

- three years Education Programme fees;
- up to two years' examination fees; and
- two tasting cases of wine per annum, delivered to the winner's home.



Stevens, 36, is winemaker for Amani Vineyards in Stellenbosch. Carmen has been in the South African wine industry for 12 years after completing her studies at Elsenburg Agriculture College in 1995.

**Carmen Stevens** said: "If ever someone would ask what is the best thing you have done for yourself....? I will have to state, my choice to be part of the world of wine has filled my life with astonishing rewards."



Peens, 25, grew up in Johannesburg and graduated from the University of Stellenbosch. His wine career started in retail, then imports, marketing as well as a sommelier both in South Africa and London. Currently, he is the manager and shareholder of Wine Cellar. He also judges for various publications and competitions.

**Roland Peens** said: "I am thrilled to have been awarded the Chairman's Scholarship. Pursuing the MW qualification is my passion, which requires a great deal of dedication and investment. This scholarship will help me to continue my studies with the Institute and I am grateful for that."

**Joanna Locke MW**, Chairman of the Institute, said: "The Chairman's Scholarship is now in its third year, and our decision to award two scholarships this year is a testament to the quality of South Africa's young industry professionals. Our two successful candidates share a commitment to furthering their knowledge and experience internationally, and I am delighted that the IMW is able to help them to do so."

**Siobhan Turner**, Executive Director, said: "I am delighted to welcome Carmen onto the education programme for the first time, and to congratulate her on winning this scholarship. It is a delight that we have been able to offer a Chairman's Scholarship to Roland as well, and I wish him continued success in pursuing the MW qualification. We were particularly pleased with the very high calibre of all of this year's applicants, which reflects the efforts South Africa is putting into furthering wine education, and we are thrilled to be a part of this."

**Enquiries:**

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*Note to editors and interested applicants:*

**About the Institute of Masters of Wine**

The Institute of Masters of Wine was established in London, England, in 1953, since when over 2000 candidates have sat its rigorous examination in the art and science of wine. In 1991, the examination was held on the same days in the UK, Australia and the USA, a pattern that continues today.

There are currently 265 members of the Institute, from 22 different countries. Although membership was opened up to non-UK members for the first time only in 1987, 87 members now come from outside the UK. The vast majority of the students are now non-British, and the Education programme is run annually in Napa Valley, California; Melbourne, Australia; Rust, Austria; and Bordeaux, France.

The Master of Wine qualification is achieved by passing three parts of the examination:

- Theory, comprising four three-hour question papers on viticulture, winemaking, the business of wine and contemporary issues
- Practical, comprising three 12-wine blind tastings of a range of international wines which are assessed for variety, origin, quality and style
- a 10,000 word Dissertation on a subject selected by the candidate, relevant to the international wine industry

Candidates come from all areas of the wine industry. The majority are active in a commercial capacity, as wholesalers, importers or retailers, from major multi-nationals to independent merchants. A growing number are involved directly with winemaking, while other occupations include journalism, public relations, the hospitality industry and wine education.