



GONZALEZ BYASS TO BECOME MAJOR SUPPORTER OF INSTITUTE OF MASTERS OF WINE

INITIAL CONTRACT OF THREE YEARS

LONDON: 12 February 2007 – The Institute of Masters of Wine is delighted to announce that Gonzalez Byass has agreed to become a major supporter of the Institute of Masters of Wine. With this commitment, Gonzalez Byass becomes the Institute’s first supporter from Spain.

Joanna Locke MW, Chairman of the Institute of Masters of Wine, said: “Gonzalez Byass has always had a respect for tradition and commitment to excellence, but is now becoming known for innovation and flair. It is also exciting for us to have a supporter from Spain, which is currently one of the most interesting and innovative countries in terms of developments in wine. The Institute of Masters of Wine will be visiting Spain in April 2007, and I know that those MWs going on the trip will relish the chance to meet with our newest supporter. We are delighted to welcome Gonzalez Byass, and look forward to working with them, in Spain and around the world.”

Enrique Valero Quintana, Director of Wines for Gonzalez Byass, said “We are delighted to be working with The Institute of Masters of Wine and supporting an organisation that stands for educational excellence within our sector.”

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Notes for Editors

Background to the Institute

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 257 members of the Institute, from 22 different countries. Although membership was opened up to non-UK members for the first time only in 1987, 83 members now come from outside the UK, including Norrel Robertson MW, who lives and works in Spain. 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.