



FIFTEEN NEW MASTERS OF WINE IN 2008

FIRST THREE MASTERS OF WINE IN ASIA

FIRST SPANISH MASTER OF WINE

FIRST BRAZILIAN MASTER OF WINE

2008 EXAMINATION RESULTS

LONDON: 5th September 2008 – The Institute of Masters of Wine is delighted to announce the results of the 2008 Examination. Fifteen candidates have now completed all parts of the Examination, and become Masters of Wine. They are:

- Sarah Abbott, 37, UK
- Joanne Ahearne, 46, UK
- Francisco (Pancho) Campo Carrasco, 46, Spain
- James Cluer, 38, Canada. James passed his Dissertation and became a Master of Wine in May this year.
- Martin Hudson, 53, UK
- Jeannie Cho Lee, 40, Hong Kong, originally from Korea
- Benjamin Lewin, 62, USA
- Christophe Macra, 36, France
- Debra Meiburg, 47, Hong Kong, originally from USA
- Sara Muirhead, 37, UK
- Lisa Perrotti-Brown, 41, Singapore, originally from USA
- Jennifer Simonetti-Bryan, 35, USA
- Madeleine Stenwreth, 40, Sweden
- Dirceu Vianna Junior, 40, UK, originally from Brazil
- Tim Wildman, 38, UK

Their biographies can be found at the end of this press release.

72% of all dissertations submitted, and 73% of dissertations from first time candidates, received a pass grade.

Highlights of the results of the Theory and Practical Examinations:

- a total of 27 candidates achieved a pass in at least part of the examination.
- there were 17 theory passes and nine practical passes.
- a further five candidates achieved a conditional pass in the Theory exam, and thus have only one theory paper to sit next year.
- two candidates achieved significant success by passing both parts of the written examination on their first attempt, and will now be going on to prepare a dissertation.
- 11 candidates have now passed both parts of the closed book examination, and now only have the dissertation to complete.

The passes this year once again demonstrate the growing internationalisation of the Institute, with success not only from the **UK**, the **USA** and **Australia**, but also from **Austria, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Norway, Singapore, Spain, Sweden** and **Switzerland**.

Joanna M Locke MW, Chairman of the Institute of Masters of Wine, said, "I am absolutely delighted to welcome so many new Masters of Wine to the Institute this year, and I congratulate them all on their tremendous achievements. Students have been successful around the world, and we are delighted to welcome new Masters of Wine based in eight different countries. The news is particularly good for Asia in 2008, where we now have three Masters of Wine."

All new Masters of Wine will be presented with their certificates by the Master of the Vintners' Company at the Institute's Annual Reception and Awards Ceremony on Wednesday 5th November 2008 in Vintners' Hall, London.

Enquiries

Siobhan Turner

Tel: +44 (0)20 7621 2830

Fax: +44 (0)20 7929 2302

Email: sturner@mastersofwine.org

Notes for Editors:

Biographies of new Masters of Wine

Sarah Abbott, 37, is MD of Swirl, which provides professional wine consultancy and bespoke tastings to clients in the wine trade and wider business community, having begun her career in the trade with Burgundy specialist Domaines Direct, and then Italian specialist Winetraders, for whom she now consults. Her love of wine, and food, runs in the family: both her mother and uncle are chef-restaurateurs.

Sarah said, “I am extremely happy to be a Master of Wine, and very grateful for the support and encouragement I’ve received from my family, fellow students and many Masters of Wine.”

Joanne Ahearne, 46, is a winemaker and wine technologist at Marks & Spencer plc in London, UK, having worked for eight years as a winemaker in Australia, including at Charles Melton and Orlando Wyndham.

Francisco (Pancho) Campo Carrasco, 48. Born in Chile and brought up in Barcelona from the age of 13, Pancho has had an exciting career. He began as a tennis pro and trained as a doctor, before turning to event management, which he combined with coaching the Qatari Davis Cup tennis team.. He has had a longstanding love of wine, which eventually became a career in 2003 when he started the Wine Academy of Spain, having studied winemaking and marketing at UC Davis. Pancho is a passionate speaker on climate change, and has done much to raise the global wine industry’s awareness of the problem, working closely with former US Vice President Al Gore as a member of the Climate Project. Pancho is married to Melissa, and has two children. His hobbies include skiing, body building and restaurants.

James Cluer, 38. James passed his Dissertation and became a Master of Wine in May this year. He is the owner of Fine Vintage Ltd in Vancouver, Canada, and consults for the British Columbia Government, manages the selection of wines for the award-winning Qatar Airways and is the wine adviser to Fairmont Hotels and Resorts.

Martin Hudson, 53, is a long time and avid consumer of wine who passed his WSET Diploma while still designing computer cables. He joined Oddbins as a Wine Adviser in 2002, and Berry Bros. & Rudd in 2003, where he works as a wine educator and in the retail outlet. This caps a good week for Martin, who on Sunday 31st August won the Belgian 350cc Classic Motorcycle Championship. Martin put the MW into perspective, saying, “at least I didn’t have to risk death to get this!”.

Jeannie Cho Lee, 40, is the founder and director of Grape Expectations Asia Ltd, and Head of Education at the Fine Wine School in Hong Kong, a partnership with Berry Bros. & Rudd. Born in Korea, Jeannie grew up principally in the US. Her interest in wine began at Oxford University, continued through her Masters in Public Policy at Harvard, and flourished in Hong Kong, where she also works as a journalist. She writes regularly for various international magazines, including *Wine Spectator*, *The World of Fine Wine*, Cathay Pacific’s *Discovery*, and *Wine Business International*.

Jeannie also holds a Certificat de Cuisine from Cordon Bleu. She is married with four children, and her hobbies include golf and cooking.

Jeannie said, “I hope that my MW title provides me with the opportunities to open the world of wine to a wider audience in Asia.”

Benjamin Lewin, 62, was a molecular biologist and founding editor of the international journal *Cell* before fulfilling a life-long passion and turning to wine as a second career. He has just completed his book *What price Bordeaux?* and is presently working on his next book, *Wine Myths and Reality*.

Christophe Macra, 36, started his professional life as a software consultant, working initially in the strategy practice of KPMG Consulting France for several major international companies, and then setting up his own company focusing on intranet and extranet platforms. Having given in to his passion for wine, Christophe is now the Managing Director of Esensio, which runs wine tasting events and wine education courses, although he still is involved in software consulting.

Debra E Meiburg, 47, is a long time resident of Hong Kong, originally from Sonoma County. She has worked harvest in Chile, pruned vines in Bordeaux and was a cellar-hand in New York. Now she is a wine judge, wine educator and journalist with the South China Morning Post and Asian Tatler. In 2007 she was voted Most Influential Wine Journalist in Hong Kong.

Sara Muirhead, 37. After a degree in law and French law, Sara swiftly moved into the wine industry, starting as French Programme Manager for Arblaster & Clarke, before joining Liberty Wines as Marketing Manager in 1999. In 2005 she set up Wineprose, specialising in PR, marketing and event organisation for the UK wine trade.

Lisa Perrotti-Brown, 41, was born in rural Maine, and moved to London with designs on becoming a playwright. To make ends meet she worked in a wine bar, the start of a growing passion for wine. In 2002 Lisa moved to Tokyo where she worked as a wine buyer for one of Japan’s top fine wine importers, and used the Tokyo base to travel throughout Asia. She now lives in Singapore, where she is working on developing and hosting a new section, “In Asia” of www.erobertparker.com.

Jennifer Simonetti-Bryan, 35, is National Champagne and Wine Educator for Remy Cointreau USA in New York. Her entry into the wine industry was not predictable, as a US “Air Force brat” raised in a family who didn’t drink wine. She left a lucrative position at Citicorp London in 1999 to pursue her passion for wine, and started at a retail store in Greenwich Village, Manhattan, swiftly moving to Kobrand as an event and brand manager. Jennifer is an avid golfer, and has a brown belt in Tae Kwon Do.

Jennifer said, “The MW process is a mental and physical test of will. It has taught me more about myself than any endeavour I have ever pursued, and has provided me with a detailed perspective into wine, its business, its people and my soul!”

Madeleine Stenwreth, 40, was brought up in a restaurateur family, which sparked her love of wine. In 1990 she became a Sommelier, a profession that took her to

South Africa. Her interest in South African wine led to the creation of the Sweden branch of Wines of South Africa, and was part of her portfolio as a wine buyer at Systembolaget. She is now Quality and New Products Development Manager at PrimeWine Sweden.

Dirceu Vianna Junior, 40, originally from Brazil, has lived in the UK since 1989 and becomes the first Brazilian Master of Wine. He is Wine Development Director at Coe Vintners, a judge at selected wine competitions, and a wine educator.

Tim Wildman, 38, started his wine career at Oddbins before moving to Cachet Wines in 2002 and last year to Les Caves de Pyrène to set up a UK national distribution arm. When not working, he competes in triathlons.

The Master of Wine qualification is achieved by passing three examinations:

- a Theory examination which comprises four three-hour question papers on viticulture, winemaking, the business of wine and contemporary issues relating to the wine industry
- a Practical examination which comprises 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 are required to pass all three parts of the examination, to sign a Code of Conduct and to join the Institute of Masters of Wine before achieving and using the qualification. Including the new MWs, there are now 278 Masters of Wine in 23 different countries:

Continent	No.	Continent	No.
<i>Australasia</i>		<i>Europe</i>	
Australia	17	Austria	1
New Zealand	<u>8</u>	Belgium	2
	25	England	181
		Finland	1
<i>North America</i>		France	16
Bermuda	1	Germany	3
Canada	3	Greece	1
USA	<u>26</u>	Ireland	4
	30	Netherlands	1
		Norway	1
<i>Asia</i>		Scotland	2
Hong Kong	2	Spain	2
Singapore	<u>1</u>	Sweden	2
	3	Switzerland	<u>1</u>
<i>Africa</i>			218
Egypt	1		
South Africa	<u>1</u>		
	2		