



YALUMBA SCHOLARSHIP 2009

LONDON, 20th August 2008

The Institute of Masters of Wine and Yalumba, Australia's oldest family-owned winery, are delighted to announce the call to applicants for the Yalumba Scholarship. Yalumba recognises the challenges that the Institute's internationalisation efforts encounter and is excited to offer its continued support, worth up to £3,000.

This scholarship is awarded annually to one Europe or Americas-based, second-year MW student enrolled on the full education programme. This generous scholarship consists of:

- a return flight ticket on economy class to the MW seminar in Melbourne from a major city near the winner's hometown;
- accommodation for the duration of the MW seminar in Melbourne; and
- a one-week visit to the Yalumba vineyard, nursery and winery in Angaston (a return flight ticket on economy class from Melbourne to Adelaide, accommodation and visits)

Selection for the scholarship will be in the form of an essay (1000 words in length, written in English). The essay topic is:

Evaluate the effectiveness of the AWBC's 'Regional Heroes' concept, which emphasizes origin and promotes its most interesting wines as coming from somewhere, not anywhere. Your answer should consider its relevance to the consumer and to the trade and potential barriers to implementation.

Application forms for the Yalumba Scholarship are available on the Institute's website, or candidates may get a copy by contacting Peter Csizmadia-Honigh, the Education Manager. The winner will be expected to produce a short report about the visit to Yalumba, which will be published on the Institute's website for the benefit of other MW students.

Siobhan Turner, Executive Director of the Institute, said: "I am happy that Yalumba will continue with this most generous scholarship. Internationalisation is one of the priorities of the Institute. Enabling our students to attend the seminar in Australasia helps us to achieve this goal and offers the winner an exceptional learning opportunity through the visit to Yalumba's vineyard, winery and nursery in Adelaide."

Fifth generation **Yalumba** Proprietor, **Robert Hill Smith** said, "On ground experience is a crucial part of education for all wine enthusiasts. The winner will have the rare opportunity to work alongside our experienced viti and vini teams and have our wider resources at their disposal for the duration of their visit. I understand that last year's winner Joe Fattorini found the trip insightful and that it had a positive impact on his understanding and studies of all things vinous; naturally we are very pleased to offer this scholarship once again."

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Notes to editors:

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 264 members of the Institute, from 22 different countries. Although membership was opened up to non-UK members for the first time only in 1987, 85 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.

Notes on Yalumba

Yalumba of today continues to remain fiercely independent and extremely progressive under the ownership of fifth generation Robert and Sam Hill Smith, sons of Wyndham and Helen Hill Smith and for almost 160 years, Yalumba has played a pivotal role in the Barossa, making wines that reflect the best of region.

Yalumba was founded by Dorset brewer Samuel Smith in 1849, who brought his family to Angaston seeking a new life. After purchasing a 30-acre parcel of land just beyond the village of Angaston, Smith and his son Sidney began planting the first vines by moonlight. Samuel named his patch "Yalumba" – Aboriginal for "all the land around."

It is not just Yalumba's work with the Viognier grape variety that warrants its reputation as a pioneering company. Yalumba is the sole company in Australia to craft its own oak barrels. In addition to the cooperage, Yalumba counts a wine nursery among its prized assets, which enables the winemakers to have a significant input into grape quality from an early stage. Today, this viticultural nursery specialises at the high end of vine breeding, and has winery and winegrower clients across all states.

Yalumba has also been influential in its strong policies on recycling, making sure that every effort is made to certify that waste and water are recycled, as well as ensuring energy is saved and the general environmental impact of the winery is minimised.

As a result, Yalumba is the first winery in the world to receive the Climate Protection Award from the Environmental Protection Agency in 2007.