



VDP. Die Prädikatsweingüter

**The Institute of Masters of Wine and the VDP  
Announce  
the ‘Wiesbaden Tasting Trophy and Bursaries’**

*London – April 2008:*

The Institute of Masters of Wine and the VDP are delighted to announce the ‘Wiesbaden Tasting Trophy and Bursaries’. The trophy and the bursaries will enable four Master of Wine students to participate in the exclusive presentation of the Erste Lage, the highest classification level of quality German wines. The awards will cover the costs of the travel (to a maximum of €500 for the Trophy and €250 for the Bursaries) and the stay in Wiesbaden, making them worth approx €1500 per person.

The ‘Wiesbaden Tasting Trophy’ will be awarded to the Master of Wine student, resident in North America or Australasia, who achieved the highest score in the mock tasting exam at the residential seminar in the year of the Trophy.

Another three ‘Wiesbaden Bursaries’ will be awarded to MW students from anywhere around the world and at any stage of their MW studies. The winners of these bursaries will be selected by essay. Interested students should send their essay along with a completed application form to the Institute’s office in London.

*Siobhan Turner, Executive Director of the Institute*, said, “We are very grateful to the VDP. It is an excellent opportunity to participate in the presentation of the Erste Lage and I am convinced it will be a fabulous educational experience for the winners of both the Trophy and the Bursaries.”

*Eva Raps, Managing Director of the VDP*, said: “The VDP is very happy to have good relationship with the Institute of Masters of Wine and many of its members. We are aware that all its members are important ambassadors for fine wines throughout the world. On the other side, we also appreciate their judgements and viewpoints, coming from the market and not the producer side. We hope that both the Trophy and the Bursaries will assist the winning students in achieving the Master of Wine qualification and help to intensify the dialogue between the Institute and the VDP’s members.”

### **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.

#### **Enquiries:**

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### **About the VDP**

The VDP Prädikatsweingüter (Association of German Prädikat Wine Estates) has been synonymous with Germany's finest wines for well over a century. Working hand in hand with nature, they cultivate traditional grape varieties, particularly Riesling and the Pinot varieties, in top sites throughout Germany's 13 wine-growing regions. Each of the 200 VDP estates is devoted to achieving the highest quality possible, yet each retains an individual style and thus, reflects the fascinating diversity of viticulture.

Those who appreciate fine wine know the VDP logo – a stylized eagle bearing a cluster of grapes: the symbol of ultimate pleasure.

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