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PAUL LIVERSEGE IS THE WINNER OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE & WINE 2008 SCHOLARSHIP

LONDON 23rd January 2008: the Institute of Masters of Wine in conjunction with the Wine Academy of Spain is delighted to announce that Paul Liversedge has won the "Climate Change & Wine 2008" Scholarship.

Paul, 41, was born and raised in the UK, but now lives in Switzerland. He is head of buying for Badaracco, a Zurich-based fine and rare wine merchant. Paul has substantial experience and a global perspective through his previous jobs in the UK and Hong Kong wine retail trades and his extensive travels as a buyer for more than a decade.

This scholarship, worth €1500, will enable Paul to attend the "Climate Change & Wine 2008" conference in Barcelona, Spain. The conference will feature Al Gore, former Vice President of the United States, as the key-note speaker along such globally acknowledged wine-experts as Dr. Richard Smart, Prof. Dr. Hans Schultz and Michel Rolland.

Paul said, "I think that climate change will have a significant influence on the wine industry in the next 50 years and am delighted to have this chance to hear the opinions of some of the most influential personalities on this subject in Barcelona."

Siobhan Turner, Executive Director of the Institute, said: "I am very pleased for Paul and I wish to congratulate him on winning this scholarship. It will be a brilliant opportunity for him to enhance his understanding of the various aspects of climate change in the context of the wine industry. We are grateful to the Wine Academy of Spain for their generosity."

Pancho Campo, President of The Wine Academy of Spain, said: "We congratulate Paul for writing a very interesting essay that has earned him this scholarship. I am convinced that he will enjoy our event in Barcelona, where he will have the chance to learn from the world leaders on this important problem that affects humanity and our industry."

Note to interested applicants:

Application forms for the Institute's Education Programme will be available from July 2008. Interested applicants should in the first instance contact Peter Csizmadia-Honigh, the Education Manager, to obtain an application form and discuss any questions they may have.

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.

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