

For further information please contact Chris Kelly ckelly@wset.co.uk

tel: 020 7089 3815

PRESS RELEASE

WSET top scholars – Majestic still in the lead, Oddbins and Bibendum close at their heels

On Monday 12 February the Wine & Spirit Education Trust (WSET) held their 37th Awards of Excellence presentation evening at the historic Vintners' Hall in London. This annual event recognises students who, having been the highest achievers in their examinations, at the different levels, are awarded scholarships and prizes.

Once again Tim How got to look on proudly as a number of the prizes went to Majestic staff and this year also took the top accolade for a Diploma student, The Vintners' Cup and The Vintners' Scholarship.

Commenting on the Awards, WSET's Chief Executive Ian Harris said "Over 17,000 people took WSET qualifications last year in 38 countries around the world. Thanks to the generosity of leading industry sponsors we are able to reward and encourage the very best talent among those with the scholarship programme. I also thank Dan Jago for co-hosting this prestigious event with me and was very pleased to see both Bibendum and Oddbins claiming so many of the scholarships. Once again, Majestic were very well represented, but I was encouraged to see so many new names amongst the employers of the winners.

Dan Jago added "Tesco are delighted to support the WSET in its unprecedented provision of the highest quality of wines and spirits education. With education being such a hot-topic in the industry press currently, it is encouraging to see such a

substantial year on year growth in the number of students sitting WSET examinations and, thereby, providing the trade with so many of high-calibre potential employees.”

Proving that the trade is increasingly supporting the WSET in its aims and objectives, Ian Harris also announced four new Corporate Patrons, Liberty Wines, Mentzendorff & Co, The Symington Family Estates and Match Consultancy.

12 February 2007

(ends)

WSET has been creating the trade professional for over 36 years is approved by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority and is the largest global provider of education in wines and spirits. In academic year 2005/2006 over 17,000 candidates in 38 countries and eight languages sat a WSET examination. Find out more about WSET at www.wset.co.uk.

Notes to the editor:

The scholarship prizes themselves take a number of forms, from trophies to magazine subscriptions to wine, but the majority allow the winners to travel to see wine or spirit production regions.

The selection process can also vary: sometimes it can be done simply with reference to a candidate's results, in other cases interviews are sought; for Advanced Certificate scholarships a competitive viva voce examination is held. A number of the scholarships apply to candidates from the wine and spirit business only, but others are open awards.

List of scholarship winners

WSET LEVEL 2 INTERMEDIATE CERTIFICATE IN WINES AND SPIRITS

The Ochoa Scholarship

A case of Navarra wine plus a grant for WSET Advanced Certificate fees. If an A or B grade in the Advanced examination is attained, the scholar wins a study trip to Navarra.

Awarded to: Elizabeth Waterhouse (Wine Australia)

Presented by: Bill Gunn (Pol Roger)

WSET LEVEL 2 PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE IN SPIRITS

The Worshipful Company of Distillers' Award

A study trip to a spirit producing region.

Awarded to: Barry Johnstone (Diageo Scotland Ltd)

Presented by: Keith Garrard (Master of The Distillers' Company)

Delamain Cognac Prize

A two-day study trip to Cognac.

Awarded to: Andrew Evans (Vinopolis)

Presented by: Simon Leschallas (Mentzendorff & Co Ltd)

WSET LEVEL 3 ADVANCED CERTIFICATE IN WINES AND SPIRITS

The David Burroughs Scholarship

Sponsored by WSET and named in memory of the Trust's first Chief Executive. A place on a WSET study tour to a major wine and/or spirit-producing region.

Awarded to: Adam Porter (Majestic Wine Warehouses)

Presented by: Ian Harris (Wine & Spirit Education Trust)

The Vintners' Bursaries

Three bursaries, sponsored by The Vintners' Company, used towards the cost of a study tour.

Awarded to: Kirsten Singleton (non trade), Samantha Aitken (The Balmoral Hotel), Kieron Galliard (S.H. Jones & Co Ltd)

Presented by: Edward Demery (Master of The Vintners' Company)

The Oddbins Scholarship

A place on a WSET study tour to a major wine- and/or spirit-producing region.

Awarded to: Catriona Felstead (Oddbins)

Presented by: Emma Nichols (Oddbins)

The Cálem Port Award

A study tour to the Douro as a guest of AA Calém & Filho SA.

Awarded to: Tom King (Great Western Wine)

Presented by: Nick Leonard (Chalié Richards & Co)

The Cava & Penedès Wine Institute Bursary

A place on the Cava & Penedès Wine Institute Bursary study course and a case of wine from the sponsors of the course.

Awarded to: Jamie Hutchinson (The Sampler (UK) Ltd)

Presented by: Philip Rowles (Freixenet (DWS) Ltd)

The Champagne Academy Scholarship

A place on the Champagne Academy study course.

Awarded to: Emma Dawson (Sainsbury's Supermarkets)

Presented by: TBC

The Porter & Laker Prize

£500 contribution towards fees for candidate intending to enrol on WSET Diploma course, awarded by Porter & Laker, Shippers and Forwarders to the Wine Trade.

Awarded to: Rob Hayward (Summertown Wine Café)

(Winner unable to attend)

United Kingdom Vineyards Association Prize

A programme of events organised throughout the vineyard year: seasonal visits to appropriate English Vineyards, an invitation to the National Competition, the UK Awards Ceremony and the November Symposium plus a case of English Wine.

Awarded to: Fiona Heggie (Creative Canapés)

Presented by: Roger Marchbank (United Kingdom Vineyards Association)

The Incorporation of Coopers of Glasgow Scholarship
A visit to a cooperage in Glasgow and a whisky tasting session.
Awarded to: Martin Skelton (Gonzalez Byass UK)
Presented by: Richard Paterson (The Incorporation of Coopers)

The Rhône Prize
A silver-plated wine cooler, held by the winner for a year, and a case of Rhône wines selected by Hallgarten Wines.
Awarded to: Philippa Saunders (Bibendum)
Presented by: John Cunynghame (Hallgarten Wines)

The Codorní Scholarships
A four-day study tour to Spain for three winners.
Awarded to: Clive Donaldson (Oddbins), Chris Burgess (Majestic Wine Warehouses), Russell Dent (Majestic Wine Warehouses)
Presented by: Jo Maclean (Codorní)

Decanter Magazine Prizes
One year's subscription to Decanter Magazine and an invitation to the Fine Wine Experience in November awarded to two winners.
Awarded to: Katrina de Gentile-Williams (non-trade), Steve Slatcher (non-trade)
Presented by: Guy Woodward (Decanter Magazine)

WSET LEVEL 4 DIPLOMA IN WINES AND SPIRITS

The Sherry Institute of Spain Scholarship
A study tour to Jerez.
Awarded to: Kirsty MacKenna (Alexander Wines)
Presented by: Michael Hall (Michael Hall Wines)

The Rafael Balao Lustau Memorial Trophy
A study visit to Jerez as a guest of Emilio Lustau SA and a trophy in the form of a silver copita, to be held by the winner for a year.
Awarded to: Liam Tait (Majestic Wine Warehouses)
Presented by: Michael Hall (Michael Hall Wines)

The Freixenet (DWS) Limited Bursary
A study visit to several Spanish wine regions as a guest of Freixenet and associated companies.
Awarded to: Rebecca Gibb (Harpers)
Presented by: Philip Rowles (Freixenet (DWS) Ltd)

Michel Laroche Scholarship
A study tour to Chablis.
Awarded to: Joán Torrents (Moreno Wines)
Presented by: Willie Lebus (Bibendum Wine Ltd)

Wine Trade Club Paten Prize
A bourse de voyage of the winner's choice to enable a visit to wine/spirit producing region(s).
Awarded to: Amanda Willsher (Bibendum Wine Ltd)
Presented by: David Stevens (Trustee Wine Trade Club Paten Fund)

The Champagne Scholarship
A personally-tailored study visit to Champagne as a guest of the CIVC (normally three days). Scholarship awarded on interview.

Awarded to: Lucie Parker
Presented by: Matt Day (CIVB)

The Moët & Chandon Scholarship
A study visit to Champagne as guest of Moët & Chandon and sister houses.
Awarded to: Matthew Walls (Mentzendorff & Co Ltd)
Presented by: Siri Eklund (Moët Hennessy UK Ltd)

The Grandes Maisons d'Alsace Scholarship
A place on the Ecôle d'Alsace as guest of the Grandes Maisons d'Alsace.
Awarded to: Simon Eddleston (Corney & Barrow Ltd)
Presented by: Rupert Bairamian (Hallgarten)

Wines of Portugal Scholarship
A study visit to Portugal.
Awarded to: Nicola Hall-Thompson (Spear Communications)
Presented by: Filipe da Mota Neves (Portuguese Trade Office)

The Peter Hampson Memorial Scholarship
A bursary to be put towards a wine study trip.
Awarded to: Anne McHale (Berry Bros & Rudd)
Presented by: Anthony Lacey (Mistral Wines)

The Austrian Wine Academy Bursary
A place on the Austrian Wine Summit as guest of the Academy.
Awarded to: Anne Whittingdale (Diageo, formerly Gonzalez Byass)
Presented by: Dr Josef Schuller (Austrian Wine Academy)

The Top German Language Honours Graduates
Awarded to students with top marks in the Unit 3 examination.
Awarded to: Frank Maas, Alexander Moropulo
Presented by: Ian Harris (Wine & Spirit Education Trust)

The Wines of Germany Scholarship
A place on a buyers' trip to Germany.
Awarded to: Gareth Groves (Bibendum Wine Ltd)
Presented by: Lisa Grimley (Wines of Germany)

The IWSC Waitrose Scholarship
Work experience with Waitrose for one month; attendance and induction at IWSC competition judging with possible promotion to member judge; visit to Corkwise; travel bursary to Champagne, and an engraved magnum decanter.
Awarded to: Sophie Rudge (Blend)
Presented by: Mark Williamson (Waitrose), Frances Horder (IWSC)

The Constellation Scholarship
A study visit to the New World as a guest of Constellation Europe Ltd.
Awarded to: William Bentley (Bentleys Wine Merchants)
Presented by: Jon Moramarco (Constellation Wines Europe Ltd)

Terrazas de los Andes Scholarship
An eight-day trip to Argentina.
Presented to: Michelle Bartoszyn (Thierry's)
Awarded by: Natalie Forsman (Moët Hennessy)

The Viña Carmen Scholarship

A week's study trip to Chile as a guest of Viña Carmen.

Awarded to: Tina Gellie (Wine Writer)

Presented by: Richard Leaver (Viña Carmen)

The McNie Tasting Trophy

A silver wine cooler awarded to the graduate submitting the best Unit 3 tasting paper and held by the winner for a year.

Awarded to: Simon Eddleston (Corney & Barrow Ltd)

Presented by: Maggie McNie MW

The Worshipful Company of Distillers' Scholarship

A study visit, organised by the WSET, to distilleries within the United Kingdom.

Awarded to: Simon Clarke (Oddbins)

Presented by: Keith Garrard (The Worshipful Company of Distillers)

Martell Cordon Bleu Scholarship

A study visit for two students to Cognac as guests of Martell Cognac.

Awarded to: Rachel Newbold (Tanners Wines Merchants), Harry Morris (Oddbins Ltd)

Presented by: Chris Seale (Moët Hennessy UK Ltd)

Hors Concours

A case of wine from the Vintners' Company for the top non-trade graduate.

Awarded to: Philip Carpenter

Presented by: Edward Demery (Master of The Vintners' Company)

The Geoffrey Jameson Award

Three candidates selected and interviewed by members of the Geoffrey Jameson Trust. An award of £2,500 towards the cost of the Master of Wine study course will be provided to the student who impresses the panel with their career plans and potential, and who they deem to be worthy of funding. A place on the Ecole d'Alsace is also awarded.

Awarded to: Victoria Stephens-Clarkson (Direct Wines)

Presented by: Jonathan Jameson (Trustee of the Geoffrey Jameson Award)

The Vintners' Scholarship

A bourse de voyage to enable the winner to visit the wine/spirit producing region(s) of his/her choice. Awarded by the Vintners' Company to the top scholar along with the Vintners' Cup.

The Vintners' Cup

A silver trophy awarded annually to the top graduate with achieving the highest aggregate mark, and held by the winner for a year.

Awarded to: Claire Dawson (Majestic Wine Warehouse)

Presented by: Edward Demery (Master of The Vintners' Company)