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PRESS RELEASE

WSET student numbers hit the 20,000 mark

The WSET (Wine & Spirit Education Trust) is delighted to announce that the number of students sitting a WSET exam for the academic year 06-07 has exceeded an unprecedented 20,000 – an increase of more than double since the beginning of the decade.

Ian Harris, WSET Chief Executive, said: *'This figure represents a year on year growth of 16% and reflects the hard work, dedication and commitment from both the team at the Trust, the Approved Programme Providers and the tutors who deliver our courses throughout the 39 countries where the WSET has a presence'*. Adding; *'WSET was established less than forty years ago and is now the largest global provider of education in wines and spirits with its 5 levels of qualifications being recognised as industry standards. We now have a global wine and spirit industry which recognises the important part education can play in bringing value into the supply chain at all levels, from producer to distributor, from point-of-purchase to consumer, and we are delighted that all sectors of the industry are embracing the need for education and qualifications'*.

January 21st 2008 will also witness further growth for the WSET as its traditional annual Awards of Excellence event is replaced by a fully fledged Graduation Ceremony for Diploma students throughout the world.

Ian Harris stated: *'Until now, we have held our awards ceremony in Vintners Hall, celebrating the 40 or so WSET students who have been the highest achievers, and who are awarded scholarships and prizes. The time has come for us to recognise the achievements of all WSET Diploma graduates at a much larger, all encompassing, event to be held at the Guildhall in London, at which we expect to have over 600 people attending'*.

Ends.....

WSET is the largest global provider of education in wines and spirits and is approved by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. WSET has been developing the trade professional for over 38 years, and in academic year 2006/7 over 20,000 candidates in 39 countries and nine languages sat a WSET examination. Find out more about WSET at www.wset.co.uk