

WSET® PRESS RELEASE



19-August-2008

Call for nominations for the WSET Educator of the Year 2008

At its inaugural Graduation Ceremony at London's Guildhall in January 2008, the Wine & Spirit Education Trust announced the winner of the first Riedel Trophy for the WSET 'Educator of the Year'.

This new award was open to individuals and companies who had made a significant contribution to WSET courses and qualifications in the previous year, and who had achieved superlative results in WSET programs, whilst demonstrating commitment and innovation in education.

There were 5 nominations:

- 1) The Art Institute of Vancouver;
- 2) Claire Blackler (Case Studies Wine School), Edinburgh;
- 3) The International Wine Center, New York;
- 4) Kevin Powell (Independent Educator) UK & worldwide;
- 5) Wine and Spirit Professional Consultants (WSPC), Athens, Greece.

After a split vote, the judging panel, chaired by industry guru Allan Cheesman, awarded the 2007 trophy to the International Wine Center, New York.

IWCNY celebrated its 25th birthday in 2007, and had been running WSET courses for over half of that time, with the first Diploma students graduating in 1996. In 2007 there were nearly 1,000 students on WSET courses across all the levels – a growth of 17% on the previous year. IWCNY had also introduced many new educational initiatives, including distance learning, a program of mock examinations, the introduction of courses in Spanish, weekend Diploma courses, and programs for Continuing Professional Development. They also host an annual event for all Diploma graduates since 1996, awarding scholarships for the highest performing students from the current year. In addition, the owner of IWCNY, Mary Ewing Mulligan MW, was appointed Executive Director for WSET programs throughout USA in 2003, and thanks to the efforts of her team, there are now 21 centers offering WSET qualifications across USA, accounting for around 10% of the global number of WSET candidates.

Nominations are now invited for the 2008 award, to be presented at the WSET Graduation Ceremony on 19th January 2009.

Please note that nominees may propose themselves, or their organisation, or they may be nominated by a third party.

Nominations should comprise a document of no more than 750 words, stating why an organisation (or individual) should win this prestigious award, PLUS, if felt necessary, supporting materials, photographs etc, which should be on a CD (if sent by post) or on an eMail of no more than 10mB.

Entries should be sent to Ian Harris, Chief Executive, WSET, International Wine & Spirit Centre, 39-45 Bermondsey St, London SE1 3XF, or via eMail iharris@wset.co.uk to arrive no later than 31st October 2008.

The judging panel, consisting of Allan Cheesman (Chair), Laura Jewell MW, Mary Ewing Mulligan MW, and Christian Davis will meet in early November, and they will either choose an outright winner, or call short-listed nominees for an interview at a mutually convenient date