

PRESS RELEASE
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WSET welcomes the winners of BBC Two's "The Restaurant"

The Wine & Spirit Education Trust was delighted to welcome the winning couple, and the runners-up from BBC Two's **The Restaurant programme** on to a WSET course held at WSET's London Wine & Spirit School this week.

In the final, broadcast on 29th October, **Michele English** and **Russell Clement** triumphed to win the once-in-a-lifetime prize of joining **Raymond Blanc** in opening a new restaurant.

Michele and Russell have an exciting few months ahead of them as they source a restaurant with Raymond. While doing this, and planning for its launch next year, they will have the opportunity to gain even more experience and knowledge to further their development in every skill needed to open a restaurant. In addition to attending the WSET course, they will also be spending some time training at Brasserie Blanc in Bristol.

In the final, Michele and Russell pitted their talents against front-of-house Alasdair Hooper and chef James Knight-Pachecho.

Ian Harris, Chief Executive of WSET commented, "The Restaurant was compulsive viewing for my family, and so it was a real pleasure to meet the four people who had battled their way to the final – and we were delighted to welcome them on to WSET course, which will, I hope, be just the first stage of their education in the field of wine".

Over eight weeks of programmes, viewers saw nine couples competing for the incredible opportunity to go into business with legendary chef and restaurateur Raymond Blanc.

Raymond added: "I couldn't just say good-bye to James and Alasdair as they were such worthy finalists so I have offered them three months' training at Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons to help them with their dream of opening a fine dining restaurant."



In the picture (from left to right): Russell Clement, Michele English, Erica Dent (WSET tutor), Alasdair Hooper, James Knight-Pachecho, Ian Harris (CEO of WSET).

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WSET has been creating the trade professional for 39 years - is approved in UK by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority and is the largest global provider of education and qualifications in the field of wines & spirits. In the last academic year, over 24,000 candidates sat for a WSET qualification in 43 countries.

Find out more about WSET at www.wsetglobal.com

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