



PRESS RELEASE – 08/08/09

HIGHEST NUMBER OF DIPLOMA GRADUATES IN THE 40 YEAR HISTORY OF WSET

The WSET (Wine & Spirit Education Trust) has issued the results of the Diploma examinations which were held in June 2009, and these results meant that total of 359 students completed all units of the Diploma during the academic year 2008/9. This is the highest number of Diploma graduates in the 40 year history of WSET, and Chief Executive Ian Harris commented, "It is a testament to the quality of teaching in all the 22 centres offering the WSET Diploma, in 17 different countries, that we have achieved the figure of 359 graduates. Of this figure, just over half studied in markets outside UK, reflecting the international growth of WSET, and the graduate list includes students from 28 countries".

By far the largest centre offering the WSET Diploma is the Wine & Spirit Education Trust's London Wine & Spirit School in Bermondsey Street, which also runs the Diploma programmes in Birmingham, Manchester and Edinburgh. Karen Douglas, Director of Education at WSET, was delighted with the achievements of the figures at the WSET School, stating: "At any one time we have well over 400 students on our Diploma programmes in London and the UK regions, and the figure of 177 graduates from the School alone is a culmination of several years of work undertaken by the School team, which includes a change in focus in teaching, checks on students' progression and additional examination guidance. Let us not forget the importance of information and advice given to the students before and during their courses given with much patience by our Student Services team. We have also made significant improvements to our online Diploma distance learning programme, and we continue to review and update the course offering, whether in the classroom or through our online platform".

Ian added: "In these uncertain times, it is very encouraging to see such a high number of individuals and companies continuing to invest in education in general, and WSET qualification in particular, and I congratulate all those who have achieved success in all WSET qualifications in the past year. I look forward to welcoming a record number of people to the 2010 Awards and Graduation Ceremony on January 18th, which will again be held at the Guildhall in London, and where our graduates will have the opportunity to meet many high-profile figures in the industry, including of course WSET's current Honorary President, Hugh Johnson".

www.wsetglobal.com

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EDITORS NOTES:

WSET – 'Celebrating 40 Years of Education'

WSET is the largest global provider of education in wines and spirits and is approved in the UK by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (Ofqual). WSET has been developing the trade professional for 40 years and in the Academic year 2008-09 over 25,500 candidates sat a WSET examination. WSET currently has qualifications available in 47 countries in 16 languages. For more information visit www.wsetglobal.com