



PRESS RELEASE

09 – JULY – 2010

New Corporate Patron for WSET

The WSET (Wine & Spirit Education Trust) is extremely pleased to announce that Marks & Spencer has joined their growing list of Corporate Patrons.

Ian Harris, WSET's Chief Executive said "To have the support of yet another prestigious retailer such as Marks & Spencer proves that what we do at the WSET bears a strong relevance to the success of retailers in the UK. M&S join Waitrose, Majestic and Tesco as Corporate Patrons of WSET at the Gold level and in doing so have endorsed our long-held view that wine and spirit training at the point of purchase is a key driver of a successful business for retailers in a tough trading environment".

Marks & Spencer, BWS Category Manager, Andrew Bird stated that "Marks & Spencer is delighted to become a Gold Patron of the WSET and support their great work in training the wine and spirits trade. Good product knowledge is vital in today's competitive marketplace and in partnership with the WSET we will be increasing our investment in training for our in-store wine advisors and central colleagues over the months ahead."

Ian Harris added "The Corporate Patronage Scheme was launched in 2003 to fund the many changes required by the wine and spirit industry to ensure the WSET courses and qualifications up-to-date with a constantly changing wine and spirits market".

A full list of the WSET's current Corporate Patrons can be found at: www.wsetglobal.com/

ENDS.....

For further information including images please contact:

Chris Kelly ACMI, MIDM - Marketing Manager, WSET® Wine & Spirit Education Trust
Email: ckelly@wset.co.uk - Tel: +44(0) 20 7089 3800

Editors Notes:

WSET is the ultimate global provider of qualifications in the fields of wines and spirits and is approved in the UK by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (Ofqual). WSET has been developing the trade professional for over **40 years** and in the Academic year **2009-10** over **27,500** candidates sat a WSET examination. WSET currently has qualifications available in **55** countries in **15** languages. For more information visit www.wsetglobal.com

WSET