

AWSEC Acknowledgement after two decades

亞洲侍酒及教育中心 二十年來的肯定

The wine culture is getting more and more popular in Hong Kong. People who love wine or wish to upgrade themselves will immerse in it. There are plenty of classes, courses for learning wine and the mostly recognized and popular will be WSET (Wine & Spirit Education Trust). Recently, the 20 year-old Asia Wine Service & Education Centre (AWSEC) won the award of international “WSET Educator of the Year 2013” from WSET. And so, we had a little chat with Jennie Mack, one of the founders of AWSEC, talking about the award and wine.

香港的葡萄酒文化日漸風行，愈來愈多人喜愛飲用葡萄酒，當中更有不少人士因為熱愛或想自我增值而去鑽研當中的學問。坊間有各式各樣的葡萄酒課程可供選擇，不過當中最具認受性和受歡迎的非WSET（Wine & Spirit Education Trust）莫屬。最近，成立了二十年的亞洲侍酒及教育中心（AWSEC）從英國葡萄酒與烈酒教育基金（WSET）中中得到全球「WSET全年最佳教育工作者2013」的獎項。因此，今期刊訪訪問了AWSEC創辦人之一Jennie Mack，與她談談得獎感受，談談葡萄酒。

Q1: Actually there are quite a number of WSET courses providers in HK, what factors do you think AWSEC stands in the leading role?

香港其實有不少WSET的課程提供者，你認為AWSEC有甚麼突出或優勝之處？

A1: One of the main reasons is that we have the longest establishment. AWSEC was founded in 1994, and now it is the 20th year. Also, our courses are more comprehensive, which students can study WSET at anytime. Basically we open all along the year except Chinese New Year.

主要原因是我們歷史最悠久，AWSEC自1994年成立，今年已經成立了二十年。另外，我們的課程時數比較全面，學生於全年任何時候都可報讀WSET課程，基本上除了農曆新年外，我們可謂年中無休。

Q2: The “WSET Educator of the year”, means anything to AWSEC?

你認為今次得到「最佳教育工作者」對AWSEC有甚麼意義？

A2: It means a lot to us. It proves to the world that AWSEC is a capable educator, teaching the righteous knowledge to our students and they are calibre. Since the top 3 out of 5 students with the highest WSET level 4 score in the world were our students. Besides, this is an international award, and we competed with more than 500 APP (approved programme provider) around the world. This acknowledged our hard efforts for these 20 years.

今次得獎對我們意義重大。這獎項證明了AWSEC是出色的教育者，並且能夠將正確知識教授給學生。加上我們的學生才能亦很高，例如在全球WSET第4級最高分的五名學生中，三名就是我們的學生。此外，我們從全球62個國家超過500個的認可課程提供機構中得到這殊榮，證明了我們這20年來的努力沒有白費。

Q3: What advantages do you think WSET courses possess? 你認為WSET課程有甚麼優勝之處？

A3: WSET is great for general knowledge. It is just like taking the first step into the great wine world. Also, it is well structured with a well-planned syllabus, from level 1 to level 5, gradually enhancing your knowledge.

WSET能夠給學生一些有關葡萄酒的基本認知，為他們將來踏入偉大的葡萄酒世界打好基礎。再者，WSET課程的編排、大綱都安排得很好，分了多個等級，逐步逐步建立酒釀的知識。

Q4: How did you start loving wine? 你是如何愛上葡萄酒？

A4: My husband inspired me. First I started to learn from him, and then I do lots of reading. 我丈夫Stephen啟發了我，他教我不少酒釀知識，接著我便閱讀很多不同書籍，自我增值。

Q5: To you, how is the way in learning wines? 你認為學習葡萄酒的過程是如何？

A5: Learning never stops. Everything is changing, from climate to soil, from knowledge to approaches. I think WSET provides you with a foundation for future journey. But if you do love wines, you will want to learn more and more. Just like some of our students, they continue their study and striving for Master of Wine.

學海是無涯，一切事物都在轉變，由氣候到土壤、栽種到造酒方法等等。WSET為學生們提供了一個良好的根基。如果學生們真的喜歡葡萄酒，他們自然會進一步追尋更多知識，例如某些學生正在努力進修，希望成為Master of Wine。

Q6: What do you think of wines? 你認為葡萄酒是甚麼？

A6: It is just more than simply liquid. It is a mixture of History, Geography, Chemistry and Culture. For wine lovers who

travel to different wine regions discovering, I think they are adventurers.

葡萄酒不單是液體，她其實是歷史、地理、化學、文化等等的結合。我認為那些因喜愛葡萄酒而四出探索不同酒區的人，都是冒險家。

Q7: Are there any differences between students in China and students in Hong Kong?

你覺得國內的學生與香港的學生有甚麼不同？

A7: From my observation, mainland students are very serious, committed and hard-working. Hong Kong students are talented, but since they may have a more busy life, I think they should spend more effort in it.

據我的觀察，國內學生都很認真、盡責和勤力。而香港學生則有良好天份，可是香港人生活比較繁忙，我認為他們需要投放更多的努力。

Q8: Any future plans for AWSEC?

AWSEC未來有甚麼計劃？

A8: We will continue what we are doing and what we are good at. We will try to expand and promote wine learning to the mass, making it more popular instead of just certain classes.

我們嘗試擴充和推廣葡萄酒學習，讓更多人認識這一個文化，而不是僅僅局限於某些階層。

Afterwords 後記

During the interview, Jennie highlighted the correct pronunciation of WSET. The correct one is to read the initial one by one, instead of “Wine set” or “We set”. She said even the WSET organization resists it. Therefore, just like other wine regions and terms, knowing the correct nouns is the first step of learning. ↘

在訪問中，Jennie跟我們強調了WSET的正確讀音，是WSET逐個字母讀出，而不是「Wine set」或「We set」等讀法。她指甚至連英國WSET都表示抗拒。因此，就像產區或名詞一樣，知道正確的名詞，是學習的第一步。 ↘

from left: Mr. John Hinckley, Mr. Stephen and Mrs. Jennie Mack and Ms. Jancis Robinson MW

