

## **SOGRAPE WINE ACADEMY COMPLETES FIRST SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IN ANGOLA**

**Pioneering initiative certified by WSET and in partnership with the Gérard Basset Foundation aims to develop skills of Angolan wine sector professionals**

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**February 5, 2025 – The Sogrape Wine Academy, in partnership with WSET (Wine & Spirit Education Trust) and the Gérard Basset Foundation, successfully completed its first Scholarship Program in Angola. This Program, pioneering in Angola, reflects the vision of the three institutions regarding the relevance of wine knowledge and training in the wine sector as essential tools for the development and career progression of local professionals related to this sector.**

In Luanda, over three days, 14 Angolan scholarship holders, professionals from the hospitality and tourism sectors and wine trade, participated in the first wine training in Angola certified by WSET, the most internationally recognized training institute in this field. This Program included two days of preparation by the Sogrape Wine Academy course, with a pedagogical approach that helped better consolidate knowledge and facilitate the interpretation of the WSET methodology by the participants. The third day was dedicated to the WSET Level 1 Award in Wines course, marking a historic moment as the first group in Angola to participate in this globally recognized qualification.

*“This program is a step that greatly honours us and materializes the Sogrape Wine Academy’s commitment to promoting wine knowledge and culture as a catalyst for transformation and growth in the sector. This partnership with WSET and the Gérard Basset Foundation is a concrete example of how we can contribute to empowering professionals, creating a positive impact in the communities where we are present, and driving the sustainable development of wine culture in Angola. We are very proud of the work done and look forward to exploring new opportunities for the benefit of all local sector professionals”,* says Filipe Gonçalves, Executive Board Member of Sogrape.

Luanda was the city chosen for this pioneering project of the Sogrape Wine Academy in Angola, with the scholarship holders selected for their experience in the sector and their motivation to deepen their knowledge in wines. This focus reinforces the social and sustainable component of the project, benefiting the trainees, the companies they work for, and the tourism sector, allowing Sogrape to contribute to the development of the communities and places where it operates.

*“We’re very proud to have partnered with Sogrape Wine Academy and the Gérard Basset Foundation to provide our Level 1 Award in Wines course to hospitality professionals in Luanda, Angola. It’s central to our values at WSET to empower people all over the world through learning and education, providing*

them with a platform from which to develop their careers in the drinks industry. We look forward to hearing how each of the participants progresses from here", says Michelle Brampton, WSET CEO.

*"We are delighted to have partnered with Sogrape Wine Academy and WSET to create opportunities for Angolan wine sector professionals to obtain internationally recognized certifications. This program allowed them to acquire new knowledge and develop essential skills that will enrich their careers and enable progress in the wine and hospitality sector. We are excited to see all that the 14 participants of this course will achieve in the future. Congratulations to all for completing the course and demonstrating so much dedication and passion throughout this journey",* says Romané Basset, Co-Founding Trustee of the Gérard Basset Foundation.

It is with great satisfaction and pride that the Sogrape Wine Academy, the Wine & Spirit Education Trust, and the Gérard Basset Foundation contribute to the qualification of 14 professionals, at a time when the hospitality and tourism sector and the wine sector in Angola show increasing growth potential.

### About Sogrape Wine Academy

Certified as a WSET Approved Program Provider (APP), the Sogrape Wine Academy, launched in 2022, is now recognized as a WSET training centre for Portugal and Angola, being the only one in Angola. This certification reinforces the ambition to be a centre of excellence in wine knowledge at an international level, with a training offer that elevates wine culture among Sogrape's main stakeholders and partners.

### About Sogrape

Founded in 1942 by Fernando Van Zeller Guedes, Sogrape was born to demonstrate the quality of Portuguese wines to the world. From a single winery in the Douro Valley focused on the production of Mateus Rose, this family company has become global, with presence in more than 120 markets, owning over 1,600 hectares of vineyards in Portugal, Spain, Chile, Argentina, and New Zealand.

Moved by the purpose of *bringing Friendship and Happiness to everyone it touches through its wonderful wines*, the family spirit and the peak performing team culture lived at Sogrape are key in the successful path that it has been building for over 80 years.

Under the leadership of Fernando da Cunha Guedes, current President and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation of the founding family, the leading company in Portugal aims to spread Sograpiness through the world and be affirmed as a catalyst for positive societal change, respecting the limits of the planet in the construction of a more sustainable and inclusive future. [www.sogrape.com](http://www.sogrape.com)

### About WSET

[WSET](#) (Wine & Spirit Education Trust) is the global leader in drinks education. Founded in 1969, and recognised by the awarding body Ofqual, we have awarded over 1.5 million people with a qualification since our inception. The courses are open to both industry professionals and interested enthusiasts who can take them across four levels, from one-day beginner to expert level diploma. Available in more than 15 languages and in over 70 countries, our qualifications have a strong reputation worldwide as the industry standard for knowledge. In the last academic year (2023/24) 134,000 candidates sat for a WSET qualification. Follow us on [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

You can find out more about WSET's wine qualifications [on its website](#).

## About The Gérard Basset Foundation

The Gérard Basset Foundation is the world's leading charitable foundation dedicated to using the wine, spirits and hospitality industries as a global vehicle for change by funding education, training and mentorship programmes which focus on opening up these sectors to passionate and talented individuals, regardless of their backgrounds or circumstances. Gérard Basset (7th March 1957 – 16th January 2019) OBE MS MW MBA OIV MSc ASI World's Best Sommelier 2010 was without question one of the greatest wine professionals of his era. During his lifetime, Gérard mentored and trained a generation of young sommeliers who sought out his expertise and guidance to launch their own successful careers. Many of those protégés are now connected with the Foundation and remain instrumental in keeping Gérard's legacy alive and flourishing. The Gérard Basset Foundation was co-founded in 2021 by Gérard's wife Nina and their son Romané who also serve as trustees alongside Jancis Robinson OBE MW and Ian Harris. <https://gerardbassetfoundation.org>