



CASA FERREIRINHA  
EM CADA VINHO UMA HISTÓRIA.

## CASA FERREIRINHA ANNOUNCES OPENING OF APPLICATIONS FOR THE BARCA-VELHA GOLDEN VINES® MW SCHOLARSHIPS 2026

*Initiative reinforces Casa Ferreirinha's commitment to excellence, knowledge, and the education of future global leaders in the wine sector*

6 May 2026 – Casa Ferreirinha, a historic Douro producer and a brand in the Sogrape portfolio, announces, in partnership with the Gérard Basset Foundation, the opening of applications for the Barca-Velha Golden Vines® MW Scholarships 2026. Bearing the name of Portugal's most iconic wine, this initiative symbolizes a strong commitment to excellence and to the future of knowledge in the global wine sector.

The Barca-Velha Golden Vines® MW Scholarships are designed to support candidates on their path toward the prestigious Master of Wine (MW) qualification, awarded by The Institute of Masters of Wine and widely regarded as one of the most demanding and respected distinctions in the world of wine. Each recipient will receive funding of £35,000 (GBP) to cover the costs of the Master of Wine programme, as well as a tailor-made internship programme, developed with the support of an international panel of mentors and carried out in collaboration with some of the world's most renowned wine and spirits estates.

In addition, scholarship recipients will be invited to take part in an exclusive Sogrape experience in Portugal, visiting the company's estates in Porto, the Douro and other key wine regions. During this experience, they will have the opportunity to engage with Sogrape's technical teams and learn first-hand from the expertise of one of the world's leading wine companies.

The jury panel responsible for selecting the winners is composed of six leading figures in the industry: Richard Bampfield MW; Nina Basset FIH, representing the Gérard Basset Foundation; António Graça, Director of Research and Development at Sogrape; Joana Pais, Prestige Brands Director at Sogrape; Jancis Robinson OBE MW; and Neil Tully MW, representing The Institute of Masters of Wine.

In the 2025 edition, the scholarships were awarded to Sera Svitlana Karamshuk, a Ukrainian national based in the United Kingdom, and Leila Killoran, of Iranian origin and resident in the United Kingdom. Both highlighted the transformative impact of this opportunity—not only for the essential financial support it provides, but also for the recognition and career opportunities it unlocks for those pursuing excellence in the wine sector.

Aligned with the values of social responsibility and inclusion shared by Sogrape and the Gérard Basset Foundation, the initiative actively encourages applications from individuals from diverse backgrounds, promoting greater representation in access to knowledge and leadership positions within the wine industry.

For more information, please contact:  
LLYC

Bruna Pedro – [bruna.pedro@lyc.global](mailto:bruna.pedro@lyc.global)  
Beatriz Freitas-Branco - [beatriz.branco@lyc.global](mailto:beatriz.branco@lyc.global)



Be responsible. Drink in moderation.



CASA FERREIRINHA

EM CADA VINHO UMA HISTÓRIA.

Applications are open until midnight (BST) on Sunday, 14 June 2026. Detailed information about the application process and access to the application form can be found at: <https://gerardbassetfoundation.org/scholarships/the-barca-velha-golden-vines-mw-scholarships-in-wine>

### About Casa Ferreirinha

Casa Ferreirinha, an integral part of the Sogrape family since its acquisition in 1987, is a pioneer and leader in the production of Douro wines, with a rich legacy spanning more than 250 years. At a time when the region was almost exclusively dedicated to the production of Port Wine, Casa Ferreirinha became renowned for its unwavering commitment to excellence and innovation, producing some of Portugal's most prestigious wines, celebrated for their exceptional quality and limited releases, including the iconic Barca Velha.

Among the more than 600 hectares of vineyards owned by Casa Ferreirinha in the Douro, Quinta da Leda, located in the Douro Superior sub-region, stands out as a flagship estate. Surrounded by the Douro River and the Aguiar Stream, just a few kilometres from the Spanish border, this property is the birthplace of Casa Ferreirinha's most emblematic wines.

### About Liquid Icons and the Golden Vines®

Liquid Icons is a research and content production company dedicated to the world of fine wines, founded by two friends, the late Gérard Basset OBE MW MS and Lewis Chester DipWSET, together with Sasha Lushnikov, with the aim of "doing things in the world of wine." Liquid Icons develops high-quality original content and leading research on the world's finest wines and spirits.

The company's activities span sector studies, initiatives recognising and celebrating excellence in wine and spirits, charitable and fundraising actions, and educational projects. The annual Golden Vines® initiative comprises:

1. Diversity & Inclusion scholarships, promoted in the name of the Gérard Basset Foundation;
2. A three-day experience aimed at wine lovers and fine-dining enthusiasts, held in cities renowned for their food and drink culture – having taken place in London, Florence, Paris, Madrid and Miami, and returning to London in 2026;
3. Live and online global auctions in support of the Gérard Basset Foundation; and
4. Innovative annual awards recognising the world's leading fine wine and rare spirits producers and key figures, based on the most comprehensive and in-depth sector research ever conducted. [liquidicons.com](https://liquidicons.com)

### About the Gérard Basset Foundation

The Gérard Basset Foundation is the world's leading philanthropic organisation dedicated to using the wine, spirits and hospitality sectors as a global force for change, by funding education, training and mentorship programmes that aim to open these industries to talented and passionate individuals, regardless of their background or circumstances.

Gérard Basset (7 March 1957 – 16 January 2019), OBE MS MW MBA OIV MSc, World's Best Sommelier 2010, was without doubt one of the greatest wine professionals of his generation. Throughout his life, he mentored and trained a generation of young sommeliers who sought his expertise and guidance to launch successful careers. Many of these protégés remain closely connected to the Foundation and continue to play a key role in preserving and advancing his legacy.

The Gérard Basset Foundation was co-founded in 2021 by his wife, Nina, and his son, Romané, who also serve as Trustees, alongside Jancis Robinson OBE MW and Ian Harris.

<https://gerardbassetfoundation.org/>

For more information, please contact:

LLYC

Bruna Pedro – [bruna.pedro@lyc.global](mailto:bruna.pedro@lyc.global)

Beatriz Freitas-Branco - [beatriz.branco@lyc.global](mailto:beatriz.branco@lyc.global)



Be responsible. Drink in moderation.