

4 December 2015 (Friday)

VTC Hotel and Catering Students share amazing two-week Château Le Cléret French Wine Tour

A team of seven Vocational Training Council (VTC) students joined a wine study tour and internship organised by Simon WONG, the owner of Château Le Cléret in Bergerac, France. After a fruitful trip learning winemaking and culture they shared their experience with a group of students and guests at a session yesterday (3 December).

The seven students come from the Hotel and Tourism Institute (HTI) programmes, namely Diploma in Hotel Operations, Diploma in Food and Beverage Operations and Certificate in Hotel Operations and Higher diploma in Hotel and Catering Management of the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (IVE).

They stayed at Château Le Cléret to learn about the operations of the vineyard. Château Le Cléret was built in the 17th Century and was once owned by the French royal family. Bergerac, where the chateau is located, is a very famous wine region with over 1,200 wine growers and 12,000 hectares of vineyard. The students immersed themselves in the culture of French wine and experience life in the country.

The winemaker of Château Le Cléret taught the students about different types of grapes and their growing environment. He also guided them through the entire winemaking process, from picking and crushing grapes to transferring the pressed juice to the oak barrels. Since Château Le Cléret is an organic vineyard, the students not only learnt the latest trends and techniques in winemaking but also understood how to protect the environment by maintaining a natural eco-system. As well as learning about wines, they also toured around the region to sample local culture and life.

Adonis KAM, a student of the Diploma of Hotel Operations programmes of HTI said, “I am really interested in the wine industry and was eager to join this tour when my instructor told me about this opportunity. I was thrilled to be selected after passing an examination. I have realised my passion for wine and set my goal to be a successful sommelier after this trip. And throughout my time with the winemaker, I learnt that success only comes after the quest for perfection. I have learnt a lot throughout this trip, especially about great team spirit and friendship.”

Patrick LIU, student of Higher Diploma in Hotel and Catering Management of IVE said, “I could never have imagined that winemaking involves so much knowledge. It really takes a lot of hard work to succeed. After this trip, I wish to have an opportunity to study or even work abroad in order to widen my horizon and career path.”



Simon WONG, the owner of Château Le Cléret and the President of Kampery Group, fully supported the tour and was pleased to see how much it benefitted the students. “I am glad to see that the students gained considerable wine knowledge and valuable experience at our vineyard. I will continue to support the Institutes and provide more opportunities for the students in future.”

Hotel and Tourism Institute (HTI)

The Hotel and Tourism Institute (HTI, formerly known as Hospitality Industry Training and Development Centre) is a member of VTC Group. Established in 1984, HTI aims to provide quality pre-employment and supervisory training for the hotel, catering and tourism industries. HTI is furnished with advanced equipment to facilitate practical training in Food and Beverage Service, Front Office, Housekeeping, Tour Guide & Service Culture and supervisory courses for the industry. Website: www.hti.edu.hk

Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education

The Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (IVE) is a member of the VTC Group. The nine IVE campuses are located across the territory. Together they provide vocational education for secondary graduates as well as people in employment. IVE courses leading to the award of higher diploma and Diploma of Foundation Studies cover various academic disciplines including Applied Science; Business Administration; Childcare, Elderly and Community Services; Design; Information Technology; Engineering; as well as Hotel, Service and Tourism Studies. Website: www.ive.edu.hk

Captions :

	<p>Image 1&2 : Seven VTC students visited the famous wine region of Bergerac, France, and stayed at Château Le Cléret for two weeks to enhance their knowledge of winemaking</p>
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Image 3 to 5
The students participated in every step of winemaking under the instruction of the local winemaker



Image 6 & 7

The participating students shared their fruitful wine tour with the guests and students. This valuable experience also raised their interest to pursue a career in wine and F&B in future



Image 8 :

Simon WONG (back row, 7th from right), owner of Château Le Cléret and President of Kampery Group, Carrie YAU, Executive Director of VTC (back row, 7th from left), and Winnie NGAN, Principal of HTI (back row, 6th from left) with participating students

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