

## **AEHT Seminar: The WSET Level 1 awards in Wines at Vocational College for Catering and Tourism Maribor, Slovenia**

Vocational College for Catering and Tourism Maribor is an active partner of AEHT since the beginning of the association's establishment. The school and its members actively participate at the association's competitions, international projects and the Board, as well as seminar organizing. This year we organised seminar on wine culture.

Maribor is a city with wine and wine culture imprinted in its name. The old city centre is a home of the oldest (more than 450 years old) vine in the world still bearing grapes every year. The Old Vine Festival, an event organised in the honour of the old vine where professional enogastronomic lectures and cultural events take place, attracts many tourists and visitors every year.

The first week of October 2016, which is also the busiest time of the year for winegrowers, was all about wine and its culture on VCCT Maribor. This seemed a perfect time to organise a WSET seminars; WSET Level 1 Award in wines took place from 4th to 7th October and WSET Level 2 Award in Wines and Spirits took place from 5th to 9th October.

The Wine & Spirit Education Trust (WSET and WSET Awards) was established in 1969 in London. Its main activity is organising courses and exams in the field of wine and spirits and is regarded as one of the world's leading provider of wine education for professional and non-professional connoisseurs. At the end of each seminar the participants take the exam and if they pass it they receive an internationally recognized certificate. However, these seminars are not only about receiving the certificate but also discovering and getting to know the culture of a country and are at the same time a chance for networking and creating new projects of all schools, joined in the AEHT association.

Both seminars were performed by certified lecturer Robert Gorjak, internationally known wine expert, who prepared an interesting voyage through international sorts of wine, wine tasting, spirits and food pairing.

The entire programme of both seminars was intensive but also included some socialising and organised sightseeing with trip to wine cellars. Participants of the WSET Level 1 visited famous Slovenian Wine Cellar Dveri Pax and then continued their trip to neighbouring Austria wine region where they stopped at one of the most prestigious family wine cellars in the Styria region, Weingut Erich & Walter Polz, where our hosts, the Polz family, prepared a very interesting wine tasting.

Participants of the WSET Level 2 visited Wine Cellar Tement in neighbouring Austria wine region and had the opportunity to taste their *Lagenweine*, high-quality terroir wines, obtained from fully matured grapes from most important single-vineyards.

11 participants of the WSET Level 1 seminar came from AEHT member schools from Portugal, Latvia, Spain, Croatia and Slovenia. 9 participants of the WSET Level 2 seminar came from AEHT member schools from Portugal, Latvia and Slovenia.

VCCT Maribor is glad to have the opportunity to host and organise the WSET seminar in cooperation with AEHT in our new school building equipped with modern technology and specialised classrooms. We hope that in the future we will be able to organise more AEHT projects and continue to offer quality knowledge to the public.



**Photo: Participants of the WSET Level 1 seminar at VCCT Maribor (photo: VCCT Maribor)**



**Photo: Lunch break at Restaurant Seven (photo: VCCT Maribor)**



**Photo: Lecturer Robert Gorjak (photo: VCCT Maribor)**



**Photo: Wine tasting at Wine Cellar Dveri Pax (photo: VCCT Maribor)**



**Photo: The Mayor of the Maribor city Andrej Fištravec, PhD, participated at the certificate giving ceremony with the director of VCCT, MSc Helena Cviki (photo: VCCT Maribor)**