



For immediate release

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FUTURE BAR AND RESTAURANT STARS SHINE AT NEW TENNENT'S TRAINING ACADEMY AWARDS

The Tennent's Training Academy, Scotland's centre for excellence in entertaining and hospitality training, has announced the winners of its first ever **Modern Apprentice of the Year Awards** – recognising and rewarding the brightest new talent in the business.

After a tough day of testing at the Academy on 23rd August, two category winners have been announced:

Paul Hunter, 24, from Glasgow has scooped the **Modern Food and Beverage Apprentice of the Year 2011** accolade following attending TTA City and Guilds Coffee Course and First Aid Course

Joe McGroaty, 36, from Dumbarton has won **Modern Chef Apprentice of the Year 2011**. Joe has worked in local hotels and in hospitality for twenty years now and currently works at the Buchannan Arms, Drymen.

Run in association with Skills Development Scotland, the new awards are open to all Academy students on the Modern Apprenticeship Programme – a vocational qualification across different areas of the hospitality industry where skills are developed in a real working environment.

Both winners triumphed after competing against a number of hopeful candidates on the day, showcasing their skills in a series of culinary and customer service challenges under the watchful eye of the Academy judging team – made up of leading names from the Scottish industry.

As well as taking home a trophy and prize goody bag, each winner can further boost their career with vouchers for future courses at the Academy and a prestigious one-week industry placement, with Paul Hunter heading to the Townhouse Group and Joe McGroaty to Martin Wishart to further their training.

Front of House winner Paul said, 'It's so overwhelming to have been awarded this prize. I have been working in hospitality since I was 16 and love what I do'. Back of House winner, Joe, stated very modestly, 'Well done to everyone, the standard was excellent. I am so glad that I won, it was a very tough competition'

Having opened its doors in November 2010, the £1 million Tennent's Training Academy has seen hundreds of talented and ambitious young people sign up to build their skills for an exciting career in the industry, taking advantage of the talented trainers and state of the art facilities available at the academy – which is sited at Tennent's Wellpark brewery in the east end of Glasgow.

Tennent's Training Academy Director, Alan Jones, commented: *'Many congratulations to our first Modern Apprentice of the Year Award winners, who both demonstrated outstanding skill and potential on the day of the competition. The apprenticeship scheme is invaluable for those looking for the highest level of on-the-job training whilst working towards a qualification, and we hope that these awards will highlight the fantastic opportunities on offer for ambitious young people with the drive to make it in this exciting industry.'*

Website: www.tennentstrainingacademy.co.uk

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Note to editors:

About the Tennent's Training Academy:

The Tennent's Training Academy is a state-of-the-art hospitality training facility located in Tennent's Wellpark Brewery. Since opening in November 2010, the Academy has welcomed hundreds of trainees and apprentices who are each expanding their skills and knowledge across many disciplines in the hospitality industry including Wines & Spirits courses, chef courses, legislation, door security, first aid, whisky nosing and customer service.

The Academy's aim is to enhance the Scottish hospitality industry across Scotland by offering training, and equipping businesses with the right knowledge to get the most out of their business as well as give people quality education and training within the industry.

