



Background to the Cayman Islands branch of the IWFS

The Cayman Islands branch of the IWFS was first chartered in 1987 and is one of the 130 branches of the IWFS, which has more than 6,000 members in 30 countries. We have just over 100 members and we host between six to eight events each year, usually held on Grand Cayman. Events may be formal or informal, small or large, and include wine tastings, dinners with special menus at local restaurants, and cooking demonstrations. We hold some events in members' private homes. All events are designed to provide an enjoyable way to appreciate and improve our knowledge of good food and wine, in the company of people with the same interest. Prices for events vary considerably depending on the type of event and the nature of the food and wine. Historically, our cheapest event has been about CI\$30 per person and our most expensive over CI\$500.

We have a wine inventory held through the IWFS Wine Company Ltd., a Cayman Islands company financed by redeemable shares issued to the branch's members. Our buying policy allows our members to enjoy wines not readily available in the Cayman Islands, often at a price considerably below a typical restaurant wine list. As part of the world's oldest gastronomic society, we are much more than just a wine club. We are part of a truly worldwide organisation, allowing those who join our branch the opportunity to attend events held all over the globe.

Membership of the Cayman Islands branch

Membership of the Cayman Islands branch of the International Wine & Food Society is by invitation. Normally, an existing member invites a prospective new member to attend one of the branch events as a guest and introduces the prospective new member to the directors of the local branch who are attending the event, if not already known to them. In most cases, the prospective member will attend a second branch event, again as the guest of an existing member (not necessarily the same member who invited the prospective member to the first event). An existing member then proposes the prospective member as a new member for approval by the board of directors. Attending at least two events as a guest is important as it gives a prospective member a flavour of the branch's activities and allows the prospective member to decide whether to join before paying the subscription fees.

The membership year runs from 1 October to 30 September and current annual dues are CI\$175 for a single member and CI\$250 for a couple, with a one-off joining fee of CI\$150. The joining fee is CI\$150 per couple if they join at the same time or per individual new member. Those joining after 31 March only pay half the first year annual dues (but they should note that there are fewer events in the summer months).

After two years' membership, single or joint members are also expected to make a once only initial investment of CI\$1,500 per single or per couple in the branch's wine cellar company, which is the company that buys and maintains the branch's cellar and sells wine to the branch for use at branch events. This investment is repaid in full on ceasing to be a member of the Cayman Islands branch.

More information: Globally: <http://www.iwfs.org/americas/overview>

Cayman Islands branch: <http://www.iwfs.org/americas/cayman-islands>

Cayman Islands branch contact: Andrew Jones – andrew@afjones.ky