



LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL WINE COMPETITION

WINE EDUCATION SPEAKERS

Michael A. Jordan, MS, CWE, "Sommelier for the People" Veteran restaurateur, chef and farmer, Michael is one of only fifteen in the world to hold both the Master Sommelier and the Certified Wine Educator Diplomas. He is currently Director of Global Key Accounts with Jackson Family Fine Wines. Michael is also the host of the syndicated weekly "What's Cooking With Wine" Radio Talk Show featuring Wine, Food and Travel. It is broadcast LIVE in several major AM Radio markets across the US. The Show also airs Live on CRN Digital Talk Radio (internet). Before joining the Jackson Family team Michael was VP of Food & Beverage at THE RANCH, Anaheim. Prior to that, he worked nine years as Global Manager of Wine Sales and Standards and Wine Educator for Walt Disney Parks and Resorts® Worldwide. Michael opened Napa Rose, Pinot Provence, Pavilion and Bella Teresa - Four top restaurants in Southern California. Early on Michael worked his way up to executive chef at his family's Matteo's Italian Restaurant - his father Matty's Hollywood celeb hang-out that opened in 1963. The California Restaurant Writers Association (CRWA), a journalist organization, named Michael "2001 and 2002 Sommelier of the Year," The STARWINE International Wine Competition Board named Michael "Wine Educator of the Year 2003" and in 2005 Orange Coast Magazine named Michael "General Manager of the Year 2006" and also voted him "Restaurant Professional of the Year 2005." The Whitefish Food & Wine Summit honored Michael as "International Sommelier of the Year 2008." Additionally, in 2008 the Southern California Restaurant Writers (SCRW) voted him "2008 General Manager of the Year" and then in "2011 F&B Director of the Year."

Margie Ferree Jones is a Professor at The Collins College of Hospitality Management at Cal Poly Pomona. She is a certified sommelier and a certified wine educator (CWE). She has been a wine judge at several international wine competitions. Margie is a board member of the Society of Wine Educators (SWE) and is involved in a number of other wine related organizations.

Chris Braun was born and raised in California. After playing professional volleyball for three years, he received an MS in Wine and Spirits from ESC in Dijon. Chris then started working in Bordeaux and later moved to the Languedoc region in southern France where he was Managing Director of Ciatti Europe in Montpellier. He received the *Chevalier de l'Ordre de Merite Agricole* medal for his service to the French wine industry. Chris now runs Advinture, a wine import consultancy, and is based in Southern California.

Greg Burns of Lodi, California is a fifth generation descendent of Jessie's Grove Vineyards & Winery. Greg is the director and head winemaker for Jessie's Grove Winery. His family has been in Lodi since the 1850's and has been growing grapes in the Lodi area since the 1880's. He continues that legacy today, having returned to manage his family vineyards in 1994. With 280 acres of grapes in full production his collection for Jessie's Grove Winery has been carefully hand selected. Where he is fifth generation grower, he is a first generation winemaker and has been actively making wine for the last 21 years. As Greg puts it, "Lodi's rich history and recognition as an AVA producing high quality grapes gives our region's growers and winemakers an incredible opportunity to define our uniqueness."

Kimberly Charles, marks her 30th anniversary as a marketing communications professional in the wine business in 2014. Her agency in San Francisco was started in 2003 specializing in strategic branding, corporate social responsibility with a focus on launching, reinvigorating and repositioning of brands. She has a particular passion for aligning social causes with businesses and advocates for sustainability in all business practices, as she likes to say, "Green is the new black".

Rene Chazottes originally from Madagascar, after private schooling in France and Switzerland, Rene came to the United States in 1967. Rene has been featured in the New York Times, Wine Country Living and Santé Magazine. He conducts wine and gastronomic tours in Europe, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Rene was named "Best Sommelier" in the United States in 1988 and is the only Frenchman outside of Europe to hold the title "maitre Sommelier" and Commandeur" in the International Association of Masters Counsel in French Gastronomies.



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Don Galleano is the President of The Historic Galleano Winery which makes it a third generation of wine growers in the Cucamonga Valley. Galleano Winery produces Old Vine Zinfandel and world class Ports, Sherries and Angelica.

John Gorman has 20 years experience in the industry as an importer and online retailer of Southern Hemisphere wine exclusively.

Stacie Hunt, Certified Sommelier and Co-founder of SPLASH (www.splashpros.com), producers of Wine, Cuisine & Art exhibitions and video productions/documentaries, television/digital publicity and marketing for wineries and regions. Stacie is NPR's on-air wine reporter and a blogger for "Good Food" on KCRW-FM, Los Angeles flagship station. Stacie writes a wine column on the award-winning *MY LA Lifestyle* (www.mylalifestyle.com) and *National Wine Examiner* (www.examiner.com). She is producer of the anniversary documentary for *Wine Spectator* magazine; Emmy Award winning journalist; Product/brand spokesperson. Stacie is a partner in Du Vin Wine & Spirits in West Hollywood, specializing in the wines of Italy and Latin America; Board Member, North American Sommelier Association (www.nasommelier.com) and NAWR (National Association of Wine Retailers).

Chuck Keagle of Upland, California, is founder, owner, and CEO of Cask & Cleaver restaurants and the Sycamore Inn. Chuck is a former board member of the Collins School of Hospitality Management, Cal Poly Pomona, and the California Avocado Commission and the California Restaurant Association. Chuck is an avocado grower and former wine grape grower.

Adam LaZarre is the Director of Winemaking for The Wine Hooligans based out of Santa Rosa, California. He produces and/or supervises the production of a number of nationally distributed brands such as Cycles-Gladiator. He is also the proprietor and winemaker for LaZarre Wine Company, an artisan wine company specializing in small lots of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay to name a few. He is a veteran winemaker with over two decades of experience behind him. Adam is one of the most accoladed winemakers in California, with Best-of-Show wins at the most prestigious wine competitions in the world including the L.A. International Wine Competition where he is the only three time winner of this respected wine competition. In 2005, Adam was named "Winemaker of the Year" in the Sacramento Bee and was also named "One of the Top Five Winemakers" in the San Francisco Chronicle in 2006. Earlier in 2012, Adam was ranked #69 on IntoWine.com's "100 Most Influential People in the US Wine Industry". Adam and his wife Angie are completely committed to providing the very best possible wines at any price and will continue to do so until he departs this earth. After all, wine is a gift from God and should be enjoyed responsibly or at least naked.....

Shelby Ledgerwood, CWE is the owner of *Savant Wines* - a wine education and consulting company in Southern California. She has worked in the food and wine industries for over 20 years where she regularly conducts wine education seminars for luxury hotels, restaurants and wine distributors. Shelby is a senior instructor in the Wine Education and Management Program at *UCLA Extension* and a former Academic Instructor of wine at *The California School of Culinary Arts (Le Cordon Bleu)*. Shelby Ledgerwood is a Certified Wine Educator (CWE) with the Society of Wine Educators and wrote her first exams for the Master of Wine in 2008. She holds credentials from numerous wine organizations such as: The Court of Master Sommeliers, The Wine and Spirits Education Trust, The Wine Academy of Spain, L'Ecole du Vin de Bordeaux and L'Ecole du Vin de Bourgogne.



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Keith Mabry graduated from the Collins School of Hospitality Management at CSU Cal Poly Pomona. During a wine class, he tasted a wine that changed his life forever, a German Riesling from the Mosel. After completing the course, Keith knew his passion had become wine and he became the teaching assistant for the wine course several times. While finishing his degree he began working at Wally's, one of Los Angeles's top retail stores. There he quickly worked up through the ranks of sales people and became the Sales Manager and Spirits Buyer. After a few years, he moved over to Los Angeles Wine Company where he became the General Manager. In 2007, Keith was recruited by K&L Wine Merchants, one of California's largest independent wine retailers, to help launch their newest location in Hollywood. He came on board as the Sales Manager and ultimately has become the Import Director for the Hollywood location.

Philip Scott MacConnell has been haunted by wine since he visited Italian Swiss Colony at the age of eight. He has worked in the trade since 1996. Scott is a trained Archivist and advocates for the Southern California pioneers of the California Wine Industry. He also explores the space between sketch comedy and wine education in a Web Series entitled "One Minute Wino."

Ann Miller is the Marketing Manager at St. James Winery in Missouri a top producer of sweet, fruit and regional varietal wines in the Midwest. Ann has served as a wine judge for several national and international wine competitions including the Florida State Fair International Wine Competition, the New York Wine and Food Classic, and the Los Angeles International Wine Competition.

Mark A. Newman of Studio City, California has been Chairman and CEO of three wine & spirits industry companies, and has spent a lifetime in the industry. Mark is currently consulting for wineries in the south of France, Bordeaux, Italy, Spain and California. In his over 35 years in the wine industry he has owned the largest per unit wine & spirits retail chain in Arizona, held key California winery positions as well as senior level executive positions in the wine distributing business. Mark has also produced wine in both California and France. He received his education at the University of Southern California in Business (Marketing & Finance) and is a member of several wine industry trade groups. Mark was inducted into the prestigious Commanderie de Bontemps du Medoc et Graves recognizing his years of dedication to the wine industry, and is Maitre Consiels of Gastronomy, an honor bestowed by the French Minister of Agriculture, and he has previously had his palate insured for one million dollars.

Andrea Francesco Torelli-Lesky is an Italian wine expert. He is consulting wine import director for several independent U.S. importers. He is a wine educator and proprietor of Deluca Trattoria & Wine Bar in El Segundo, California and partner at Roxbury Market in Beverly Hills.

Jim Trezise has been President of the New York Wine & Grape Foundation since its creation in 1985. He is also President of the International Riesling Foundation, a Board member of four national organizations, and a judge in many competitions.

Toshio Ueno is a Master Sake Sommelier, Shochu Advisor and Jizake Educator. Born in Japan where his family has grown wine grapes for generations, Toshio grew up helping the business from a young age. Following his education in the US and employment at an international trading company in Tokyo, he joined Chateraise, a pastry and wine company as Director of Sales. In 2002 he joined Mutual Trading Company where he is Manager of the Business Development Department in marketing Japanese foods, Jizake and Shochu to the mainstream American trade. With his passion and expertise he aims to further promote Japanese food and Sake cultures to new international audiences. He is executive instructor at Sake School of America.



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Spreti Valente is the Wine Buyer and Certified Sommelier at Anne's Boutique Wines in Costa Mesa, California. Spreti has been immersed in the world of wine since her study abroad college days in both South America and France. As a wine buyer, Spreti spends her days meeting with winemakers, importers, and winery owners tasting through hundreds of wines each month to bring the best wines available from small producers from all around the world. These wines can be found in the retail store, monthly wine club she runs, as well as the weekly wine tastings she hosts. Spreti is in charge of training staff and manages the store social network presence.

Paul Wagner formed Balzac Communications & Marketing on April 1, 1991. Current clients include Diageo Chateau and Estates Wine Company, the Union des Grands Crus de Bordeaux, Consorzio Chianti Classico, Franciacorta, Caymus, Wente, Mendocino Wine Company, and a host of other wine and food specialists. Paul Wagner is an instructor for Napa Valley College's Viticulture and Enology department and the Culinary Institute of America, and contributes to Allexperts.com in the field of wine and food. He is a guest lecturer for Sonoma State University, MIB School of Management in Trieste, the University of Dijon, and the OIV program at UC Davis. He has lectured throughout the world on communications, public affairs, wine and wine marketing. With Liz Thach and Janeen Olsen, he has published a book: *Wine Marketing & Sales, Strategies for a Saturated Market* by The Wine Appreciation Guild, which won the Gourmand International Award in 2008 for the best wine book for professionals. In 2007 he was awarded *Una Vida Dedicada al Vino* at the Feria Nacional de Vino in Spain. With Rick Kushman of Capital Public Radio in Sacramento, he hosts a radio show and podcast: "Bottle Talk with Rick & Paul" Tuesday at 11 a.m. Pacific time at www.rickandpaulwine.com. Also on KVON AM 1440, in Napa, and on i-tunes.



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