



LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL WINE COMPETITION

2017 WINE EDUCATION SPEAKERS

Mark Crisler, Wine Competition Honorary Chairman
Margie Ferree Jones, Ph.D., Wine Steward

Mark Crisler is an entrepreneur at heart. He founded the Trellis Wine Group in 2005 to help aid other entrepreneurs, focusing on family-owned wineries and artisan spirit companies. He has spent the last 11 years helping them to gain greater exposure to consumers through national restaurant and hotel companies. Ensuring they are here to stay and can compete with the Big Brands. Previous to Trellis, Mark worked as director of hotel sales for Constellation Wines, Corporate Accounts Manager for Robert Mondavi and Wine Manager for Southern Wine & Spirits. He has spent over 25 years working with wineries and spirit companies bringing them to restaurants & hotels.

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.

Joy Cushing is an Advanced Sommelier passionately working towards her Master Sommelier exam. She has worked at the Disney Resort in Anaheim for nearly 15 years. She has worked as a General Manager & Wine-Education Manager for the Napa Rose and Carthay Circle Restaurant. Currently she is with Patina Restaurants with Nick & Stef's.

Gillian Dodd is the Director of Sales and National Accounts for *Distinguished Vineyards & Wine Partners*, a unique collection of traditional and contemporary wine brands from some of the world's most coveted wine regions. Gillian began her career began with *Heublein Spirits* (now *Diageo*) followed by *Beaulieu Vineyard*, which was her first venture into the wine business. Gillian was instrumental to the growth and success of Australia's famed *Rosemount Estate*, where she was Vice President of Sales, West, and then went on to create and lead their first national accounts team through the *Southcorp* merger. In 2005, Gillian went on to become a founding member of *Distinguished Vineyards & Wine Partners*, and currently runs both the Western United States and Corporate National Accounts.

Traci Dutton of Calistoga, California, is currently the Manager of Public Wine and Beverage Studies for the Culinary Institute of America at Greystone. Working with the Rudd Center for Professional Wine Studies, a state of the art sensory facility, she oversees the instruction of classes on wine, beer, spirits and other beverages for consumers and professionals.

Vince Ferragamo is a former Los Angeles Rams Superbowl Quarterback. He owns and operates Touchdown Real Estate, a full service residential sales company. Vince is an active wine enthusiast, sommelier and owner of Tenuta di Ferragamo Winery, which produces a world class Super Tuscan called "Caressa J, named after his daughters. Vince is presently broadcasting FOX11 Pigskin Classic and Sunday Wrap Up Shows following NFL gameday.

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.

Orietta Gianjorio is a certified 3rd level *Advanced Sommelier* and a certified olive oil taster part of the *Italian Registry of Olive Oil Tasters and Experts*. She holds a 2nd level certificate as a *Qualified Chocolate Taster* from the *Istituto Internazionale Chocolier*, and a 2nd level certificate as an *Expert in Honey Sensory Analysis* from the *Italian Registry of Experts in Honey Sensory Analysis*. With only one test remaining, she is on her way to becoming one of only two people in the USA to be certified as an expert in honey sensory analysis. She collaborates with the *California Olive Oil Council Taste Panel* and the *Applied Sensory Taste Panel*, the *Honey and Pollination Center* and *Mars Chocolate UC Davis Chocolate Taste Panel*. Orietta is the owner of *ORietta LLC*, a consulting company on sensory evaluation and descriptive analysis to the wine, olive oil, chocolate and honey industries that also offers *Consumer Education, Gourmet Tastings and Cooking Classes* for adults and children. Orietta is the Delegate in Sacramento for the Italian Academy of Cuisine. She is the author of *A guide to Olive Oil and Olive Oil Tasting* and two children's books about olive oil and tasting, *Coratina* and *Come Visit The Teeny Tiny Town of Taste*. Orietta was born and raised in Rome, and now resides in California. Orietta has judged in different wine, olive oil, honey, chocolate and cheese competitions including the *Los Angeles International Extra Virgin Olive Oil Competition*, *Biol* (Puglia, Italy), *Sol D'Oro* (Verona, Italy), and *The California State Fair Cheese Competition*. She has written, produced and hosted several TV shows in Italy and America and is a regular guest on many TV stations as a food and wine taster and expert.

Stacie Hunt, Certified Silver Pin 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. A contributor for "Good Food" on KCRW-FM, Los Angeles' NPR flagship station. Stacie writes the wine column on the award-winning *MY LA Lifestyle* (www.mylalifestyle.com). She is producer of the anniversary documentary for *Wine Spectator* magazine; Emmy Award winner; Product/brand spokesperson. Stacie is a partner in *Du Vin Wine & Spirits* in West Hollywood, specializing in the wines of Italy and Latin America; Spokesperson for the *Baja Winemakers Association*, Board Member and Educator, *North American Sommelier Association* (www.nasommelier.com) and Board Vice President of *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.....

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.

Monica Marin, was born and raised in Madrid, Spain. Throughout her career, Monica has visited the best wine regions of Italy, Germany, Chile, France, California and Spain, falling in love with the culture, wine and gastronomy in Piemonte, Toscana, Bordeaux, Rioja and Ribera del Duero. Monica has completed the WSET Diploma/AIWS/French Wine Scholar Instructor/Wine Academy of Spain Educator/WSET Intermediate , Advanced and Diploma Instructor. She is currently a Master Of Wine student. Monica and her family now live in California, where she dedicates her professional efforts and time to wine by working at The Wine House (the largest independent family-owned retailer in Southern California).

Sharron McCarthy is the Vice President of Wine Education for Banfi Vintners, the U.S. leading wine importer and a major producer of premium offerings from Italy. Throughout her career she has conducted food and beverage management courses at the Culinary Inst. Of America, Cal Poly, UNLV, University of Denver, University of Houston, Cornell University, Johnson and Wales and the Smithsonian, among others. She is past President of the Society of Wine Educators and has been associated with the American Inst. Of Wine and Food, American Wine Society, Sommelier Society of America, New York Women's Culinary Alliance just to name a few. She is also an associate member of the Cornell Hotel Society.

Ann Miller works with Les Bourgeois Vineyards, a top producer of regional varietal wines in the Midwest. Ann has served as a wine judge for several national and international wine competitions including the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition, the New York Wine and Food Classic, and the Los Angeles International Wine Competition.

Amy Mullally works as a wine buyer and educator at The Wine Country, a 22 year old family owned fine wine and spirits shop in Long Beach, CA. She has worked in the wine business for 15 years wearing many hats including sales, production, and as a restaurant wine director. Amy is a Certified Sommelier through the Court of Master Sommeliers as well as a Certified Advanced Sommelier through the Wine and Spirits Education Trust.

Sally Mohr, MS, earned the title of Master Sommelier in 1995 and was the second woman in the United States to achieve that distinction. She enjoys passing the wonders of the wine world to aspiring Master Sommeliers through the courses sponsored by the Court of Master Sommeliers. She began her wine career as an employee at The Boulder Wine Merchant in 1983 and became a co-owner of this prestigious specialty retail wine shop in 1986. In August of 2010, The Boulder Wine Merchant was sold allowing Sally to pursue other avenues in the beverage trade. In 2009, Sally passed the Advanced Saké Specialist course in Japan. She is a board member of the Saké Education Council, whose mission is to spread the word of the joys of Saké. Kanpai! She continues to put her palate to the test by judging in various wine competitions. Besides wine, Sally enjoys spending time with her husband and two grown children in the wonderful outdoors of Colorado and the tropical beaches of the Caribbean. Her travels have taken her to many wine regions around the world and her long-term goal is to feel the dirt between her toes in all of them.

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.

Nina Sventitsky is the official Western US Manager for Wines of Rioja, representing the Rioja DOCa region. In 2016, Nina was awarded the prestigious official Certified Rioja Educator status, one of the first three in the United States. She also has the following wine certifications: WSA Silver Pin Certified Sommelier, American Wine Specialist and Italian Wine Specialist from the North American Sommelier Association (NASA), WSET Advanced, Court of Master Sommeliers Level 1. Nina sits on the board of the North American Sommelier Association, part of the education committee developing courses, and overseeing the marketing of the association. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband Alex.

Jim Trezise was President of the New York Wine & Grape Foundation for the past 32 years. He is now President of WineAmerica, the national organization of American wineries, and also President of the International Riesling Foundation, as well as a Board member of four national organizations, and a judge in many competitions.

Toshio Ueno is a Master of Sake, Master Sake Sommelier, WSET Sake Educator and Shochu Sommelier. 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. In 2016 he has received one of the industry's highest honors: the title of "Sake Samurai" awarded by Japan Sake & Shochu Makers Association.

Spreti Valente, Certified Sommelier, is the senior wine buyer and sommelier for Anne's Boutique Wines in Costa Mesa, California. As wine buyer, Spreti meets with winemakers, importers and winery owners to sample hundreds of wines each month. From these wines, a limited few – the best of small producers from around the world are chosen to be featured in weekly tastings, included in one of three wine clubs she oversees, and/or offered at the retail boutique. Additionally, Spreti consults with aspiring restaurateurs and event planners, and participates as a speaker, panelist and event planner for various wine events, including seminars on wine related topics such as Food and Wine Pairings, Introduction to Wine Tasting and Regional Wine presentations. Spreti serves as a wine judge for several prestigious wine and spirits competitions.

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.

Kenneth Young serves the Executive Director of the Sweet and Fortified Wine Association, a national trade group whose mission is consumer education. A graduate of CSU – Chico, Kenneth spent 30 years as a public and private sector organizational executive. He has over 25 years of wine education experience serving as wine educator for Deaver Vineyards in Amador County California and Wine Editor for *d'Vine Wine Guide*. Kenneth is the author of the newly published *Fortified Wine – The Essential Guide to America's Port-Style and Fortified Wines*, is a member of the University of Phoenix School of the Humanities faculty.