



## LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL WINE COMPETITION

### WINE EDUCATION PRESENTERS AT L.A. COUNTY FAIR

**Michael Jordan, Wine Competition Honorary Chairman**

**Margie Ferree Jones, Ph.D., Wine Steward**

**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."

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> level *Sommelier* and a certified olive oil expert part of the *Italian Registry of Olive Oil Tasters and Experts*. She holds a 2<sup>nd</sup> level certificate as a *Qualified Chocolate Taster* from the *Istituto Internazionale Chocolier*. She is one of only two people in America with a certificate as an *Expert in Honey Sensory Evaluation* and she is part of the *Italian Registry of Experts in Honey Sensory Evaluation*. She collaborates with the *California Olive Oil Council*, 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 consumers education for adults and children. Orietta 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*. A third children's book (*Brainy Boo*) will be released in May of 2019. Orietta was born and raised in Rome, and now resides in Napa. 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.

**John Gorman** has 26 years experience in the wine industry as a national importer and additionally, still owns and operates one of the first online wine retail businesses ever built. He focuses exclusively on Southern Hemisphere wines for both companies.

**Stacie Hunt**, Certified Silver Pin *Sommelier* and Co-founder of *SPLASH* ([www.splashpros.com](http://www.splashpros.com)), producers of Wine, Cuisine & Art exhibitions and video productions/documentaries, television/digital publicity and marketing for wineries and regions. A contributor on KCRW-FM, Los Angeles' NPR flagship station. Stacie writes the wine column on the award-winning *MY LA Lifestyle* ([www.mylalifestyle.com](http://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, Educator, North American *Sommelier Association* ([www.nasommelier.com](http://www.nasommelier.com)) and Vice President, Board of *NAWR* (National Association of Wine Retailers).

**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.

**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.

**Sally Mohr, MS**, earned the title of Master Sommelier in 1995 and was the second woman in the United States to achieve that distinction. For 25 years she was co-owner of The Boulder Wine Merchant, a first-of-its-kind specialty retail wine shop in Boulder, Colorado. Sally's fascination with the unique beverage of saké took her in a new direction. In 2009, she achieved the title of Advanced Saké Professional through the Sake Education Council. In 2018 she earned the distinction of Level 3 Sake Educator from the Wine & Spirit Education Trust. She continues to put her palate to the test by judging both wine and saké at various regional competitions. Sally enjoys sharing her knowledge and enthusiasm for adult beverages through tastings, seminars and wine festivals.

**Amy Mullally** works as a fine wine specialist with The Henry Wine Group. Amy is a Certified Sommelier through the Court of Sommeliers, and holds a Diploma with Honors from the Wine and Spirits Education Trust in London. Amy has worked in the wine industry as restaurant wine director, retail buyer, education director, journalist, sales manager, and production assistant for a collective 16 years, and currently serves as a judge for the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition, the Los Angeles International Wine Competition, and the Pacific Rim International Wine Competition.

**Mark A. Newman** of Studio City, California is CEO of Accolade Brands and has been the CEO of two other wine & spirits industry companies. Additionally, Mark is launching a winery investment fund. He has spent a lifetime in the industry, importing and consulting for wineries in the south of France, Italy, and California. In his over 40 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, a member of the Society of Wine Educators and he has previously had his palate insured for one million dollars.

**Shawn Richcreek** is passionate about people, passionate about training and most importantly, he is passionate about providing amazing customer experiences! He is currently the Southern California Area Market Manager for Total Wine & More, based in their Flagship Store in Palm Desert, CA. He is also a Wine Educator for the Osher Institute at Cal State San Bernardino, Palm Desert. Prior to joining Total Wine & More, Shawn worked for 13 years for Beverages & More where he was the Director of Training for their retail stores. Prior to that, Shawn was the Southern California wine buyer for Cost Plus World Market and has worked on the retail side of the Wine and Spirits business in Southern California for more than 20 years. Shawn is a graduate of The University of California, Riverside. He is a Certified Sommelier and a Certified Specialist of Spirits. When he is not working or learning about wine, Shawn enjoys losing at basketball to his two teenage sons.

**Robert Small, Ph.D.**, is professor emeritus and former dean of Cal Poly Pomona's Collins College of Hospitality Management. In addition to serving as dean twice, he taught management, wine and beverage courses in his 30-year career. He completed a university textbook, with his wife Michelle Couturier, *Beverage Basics: Understanding and Appreciating Wine, Beer, and Spirits* released by John Wiley in fall 2011. For 14 years he chaired the Los Angeles International Wine & Spirits Competition and continues to judge wine at international competitions throughout the country. Bob also leads food and wine trips to Europe and was the proprietor of Dr. Bob's HandCrafted IceCreams from 1999 to 2016.

**Dawn Smith** is a professionally trained chef, her passion for wine emerged as a direct result of her experiences in the kitchen. The daughter of a chef mother, Dawn grew up in the restaurant business. While working as an instructor at a culinary college, she was given the opportunity to take wine classes and one class just led to another, and then another... Dawn has earned certifications from the International Sommelier Guild, the Wine & Spirit Education Trust, and is an Advanced Sommelier with the Court of Master Sommeliers. She has worked as Assistant Wine Director at Canlis Restaurant in Seattle, Wine Director of three restaurants for the Heavy Restaurant Group in Bellevue, the Wine Director and General Manager at Cafe Juanita in Kirkland, Lead Sommelier at Stoneburner Restaurant in Ballard, and as a Sommelier at John Howie Steak Restaurant. Having recently moved from Seattle to Whidbey Island, Dawn is excited to have joined the restaurant team at The Inn at Langley as their Sommelier and wine buyer.

**Nina Sventitsky** is a wine marketing professional and educator. She works for the Napa Valley Wine Academy in business development. In 2016 Nina received the prestigious official Certified Rioja Educator status, one of the first three in the United States. She also has the following wine certifications: AIS/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. 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.