



## LA COUNTY FAIR 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 & independent wineries and artisan spirit companies. He has spent the last 12+ years helping them to gain greater exposure to consumers through national restaurant and hotel companies. One of Mark's missions is to ensure the family-owned, independent and artisan producer are here to stay and can stay competitive alongside 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 28 years working with wineries and spirit companies helping to guide and grow their presence in 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.

**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.

**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 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](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, Board Member and Educator, North American Sommelier Association ([www.nasommelier.com](http://www.nasommelier.com)) and Board Vice President of NAWR (National Association of Wine Retailers).

**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."

**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. 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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Spredi Valente** is the senior wine buyer and sommelier for Anne's Boutique Wines in Costa Mesa, California. Anne's was ranked the Top Wine Shop in Orange County in 2017. Spredi serves as a professional wine judge for numerous, prestigious wine competitions in the U.S. and Europe. As a consultant and educator, Spredi consults with clients to develop their wine programs and produce widely attended events. Spredi also works as an educator, teaching wine classes to both public events and university audiences. Spredi's consulting work has been published in both Spanish and English in the US and Abroad.

**Paul Wagner** is the founder Emeritus of Balzac Communications & Marketing, the leading marketing communications company in the world of wine. Clients have included 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 has been an instructor for Napa Valley College's Viticulture and Enology department for the past twenty four years and is a guest lecturer for the Culinary Institute of America, Sonoma State University, MIB School of Management in Trieste, the University of Dijon, the WinTour MBA program in Barcelona, 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, now in its third edition. 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](http://www.rickandpaulwine.com) which is also on NapaRadio, and on i-tunes. In 2018 he will publish *Artisan Public Relation* with Board and Bench Publishing, and with co-authors John Crofts and Bryon Marlowe, *Wine Sales and Distribution*, published by Rowman and Littlefield. The American Wine Society has chosen him as the winner of their annual Award of Merit for 2018 the highest honor from that organization.