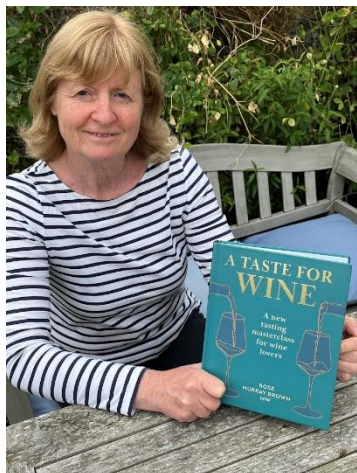




TERROIR NEW JERSEY 2026 WINE EVALUATORS



Rose Murray Brown MW

Master of Wine, Scotland

Born in England, graduated with MA Honors at St Andrews University, Scotland; spent year in Italy with scholarship to Perugia University. Rose went on to spend 12 years as the wine & spirit specialist at Sotheby's. She is also an award-winning journalist, was the weekly wine/drinks columnist at The Scotsman and writes for other specialist trade and consumer magazines, TV and radio broadcasts.

As a certified wine educator based in Scotland, Rose founded her own wine school (Rose Murray Brown Masterclass) hosting a large program of consumer wine courses, masterclasses, charity tastings, fine wine dinners, team building days, corporate entertainment - and virtual tastings. She also organizes exclusive wine tours around the world - and bespoke tailor-made tours abroad for clients. Rose judges at international competitions (Chile, Hungary, China) and is an active charity fundraiser - creator of the Comic Relief Wine Fair, a bi-annual wine fair. Rose's new book: 'A Taste for Wine' published by Mitchell Beazley (Octopus Publishing Group: launched October 2025) was one of The Times' Best Books 2025; Forbes' Best Essential Wine & Spirits Books 2025; The Wine Conversation's Best Wine Books 2025 & The Scotsman's Best Drink Books 2026.



Chris Cree MW

Master of Wine, New Jersey

Christopher Cree began his career in the wine trade in 1979 when he took a year off from his studies to travel through various wine regions. One year became many and since then he has worked in virtually every facet of the wine trade including retail, wholesale, import, restaurant and as an educator. After passing his Master of Wine exam, he became an in-demand wine consultant. Chris operated a wine retail business in Clinton, founded The Chelsea Wine Vault in Manhattan, opened 56 Degree Wine in

Bedminster, revamped Terminal "C" at Newark Airport with a dynamic food and wine program, and was Managing Editor at WineAccess. In 2015, he joined the Wine Spectator Grand Award winning Pluckemin Inn as their Director of Education and Retail Wine Sales. Chris is currently Founder and Managing Partner of Cree Wine Company, a wine bar, wine school, private event space, and retail wine seller located in a beautifully restored 1813 Farmhouse and Tavern in rural Hunterdon County New Jersey, about an hour and thirty minutes west of New York City.

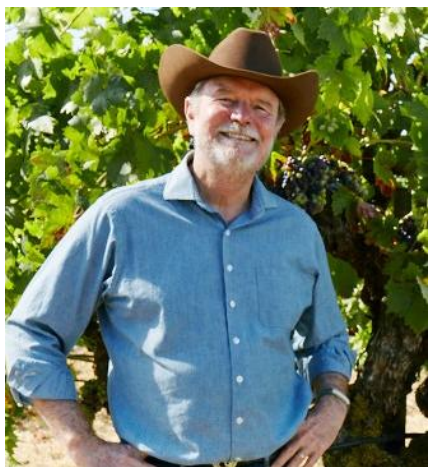


Lisa Granik MW

Master of Wine, New York City

Born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Practiced law in Washington DC following graduation from university and law school. Taught law at Georgetown University and then both at Moscow State University and the Institute of State and Law (Tbilisi, Georgie) as a Fulbright Scholar. Additional time served at Yale Law School, Moscow and St Petersburg resulted in a doctorate in law, after which I decided life was too short to be consigned to a life of vodka, potatoes and litigation. Following various positions in wine importing and distribution, in 2010 I established Tastingworks, a professional strategic management consultancy for wineries keen to establish or improve their penetration in the US market. I served as a member of the Council of the IMW from 2015 through

2021, and formerly co-chair of the Governance Committee and the Diversity, Inclusion and Transformation Committee. A second Fulbright enabled me to write *The Wines of Georgia* (2020). I teach WSET Diploma classes at the International Wine Center and write occasionally for the *World of Fine Wine* and other publications. Time outside of work finds me primarily at the piano.



Joel Peterson

Owner and Winemaker, Once & Future Wine Sonoma, California

Known as the ‘Godfather of Zin’, a winemaker for 50 years, founded the powerhouse Zinfandel brand Ravenswood, and created Once & Future Wine, focused on small production, hand crafted single vineyard wines, resurrecting his old redwood fermenters to honor the distinctive typicity of site. Joel held leadership roles at Constellation Brands and is a current member and former president of the Sonoma Valley Vintners and Growers Alliance. Joel also served on the board for the Sonoma County Vintners and is a founding board member and twice past president of ZAP.

He is an advisor to the Historic Vineyard Society and was the lead winemaker and chairman of the Heritage Vineyard Project, a joint project between ZAP and UC Davis. In addition, he is the long-time moderator for “Flights,” ZAP’s educational lecture series. Joel was inducted into the Vintners Hall of Fame in 2011 and voted one of the “20 Most Admired People in North American Wine Industry” by *Vineyard and Winery Management Magazine*. He received the “Old Vine Hero Award for Commercial Impact” in 2024, and the following year was honored at the Wine Industry Financial Symposium Leadership Dinner for “Wine Business Outstanding Individual in the Wine Industry”. Joel is also the acting Spirit Guide for the new Gallo launch of Ravenswood.



Marie Cheong -Thong

**WSET Educator, Wine, Sake & Spirits Expert, OIV International Judge
London England**

Marie has extensive experience and qualifications. She is a certified educator for the WSET global school, Sake School of America, the International Sake School, VSF Wine School, and 67 Pall Mall. She writes for World Whiskey and More magazine, Glass of Bubbly (online), as well as ghost writing, blogging, and freelance journalism. Marie has presented globally on drinks & food and serves as an ambassador and chair for ADI International Spirits, the Baijiu Academy and Cheng International.

Additionally, she is the President and Chair of the Board for the British Sake Association and Baijiu Association, Council member for the Association of Wine Educators and on the Committee of the Guild of Food Writers. Marie is a Sake Samurai, Rectifier of the GinGuild and Mousquetaire d'Armagnac. She was given the Freedom to the City of London and the Worshipful Company of Distillers and travels the world as a OIV and VINO FED International Wine Judge. She enjoys flyfishing, exploring different cultures, food, and drinks in her free time.



Josef Valihrach Jr.

**Winemaker, owner Vinařství Josef Valihrach, OIV International Judge
Czech Republic**

Born into a winemaking family, Josef has been involved in wine production from an early age, developing a deep connection to viticulture and cellar work through hands-on experience shared across generations. He is the Head Oenologist at Vinařství Josef Valihrach. Their award-winning winery has achieved victories at Chardonnay du Monde, multiple Czech Winemaker of the Year titles, and numerous international awards. Josef is also a WSET3 graduate and OIV international juror, judging around the world. He is a member of the Ministry of Agriculture's commission for wine evaluation,

technical Director of the OIV and VINO FED- patronaged Danube Wine Challenge competition, and Vice President of the Independent Winegrowers of Europe. Always eager to deepen his understanding of the world of wine, he values the opportunity to share experiences internationally – something his parents' generation was sadly unable to do before the fall of the Iron Curtain. In his work, he strives to honor the knowledge and values passed down, while continuously pursuing quality and innovation in winemaking.



François Côté

**Port Master, Sommelier-Conseil, OIV International wine judge
Quebec, Canada**

François is an esteemed expert in the field of wine, with a profound passion for sharing his knowledge. A native of Québec, Canada, he is bilingual, speaking both French and English fluently. He holds a master's degree in applied sciences and a bachelor's degree in computer engineering from Université de Sherbrooke in Canada. François ranked fourth in Canada at the prestigious IVDP Master of Port competition. Additionally, he graduated third in his class with a Sommelier-Conseil from the Université du Vin de Suze-la-Rousse in southern France. In his free time, François contributes as a freelance writer for various wine publications. He also teaches for the Sommelier Association of Quebec, having obtained his Canadian wine judge certification in 2015. Moreover, François serves as the Deputy Technical Director for Sélections Mondiales des vins du Canada and acts as a judge for OIV and international wine competitions globally.



Caitlin Horton

**Head Winemaker, 3rd Generation family of Horton Vineyards
Virginia**

Caitlin Horton has served as Head Winemaker at Horton Vineyards since 2021, following years of hands-on experience throughout nearly every aspect of the winery, including the cellar, vineyard, and tasting room. Born into one of Virginia's pioneering wine families, Caitlin was raised in the winery and learned the craft under the guidance of her renowned grandfather, Dennis Horton, whose innovative spirit helped shape modern Virginia wine. Blending tradition with a modern approach to winemaking,

Caitlin earned her Winemaking Certificate from Cornell University and has continued to build upon Horton Vineyards' longstanding reputation for quality and experimentation. Under her leadership, the winery has produced multiple gold medal-winning wines recognized in the prestigious Virginia Governor's Cup, showcasing her talent for crafting expressive and distinctive wines. In recognition of her professional accomplishments and contributions to the wine industry, Caitlin was also honored by Marquis Who's Who as a top professional. Passionate about Virginia wine and its future, she continues to honor her family's legacy while forging her own path as a respected winemaker.



Craig Hosbach

**Head Winemaker, Fox Run Vineyards
Finger Lakes, New York**

Born and raised in New Jersey, Craig Hosbach's winemaking journey began in 2004, close to home before finding his calling in the Finger Lakes of New York. After his time in New Jersey he continued his professional path, accumulating over a decade of experience across multiple wineries within the northern New York winemaking region before assuming the role of head winemaker at Hunt Country Vineyards in 2017. From there, Hosbach honed his craft and shared his boundless enthusiasm for winemaking. Hosbach joined Fox Run Vineyards as head winemaker in August of 2022, infusing his expertise and passion into every bottle. During his tenure, Hosbach's presence at Fox Run has been apparent, from his first vintage through his current releases, he has received consistent high praise from some of the most well-respected names in the wine industry. Craig has been a tremendous asset to wine judging panels for the past few years at international competitions throughout the United States.



Aaron Mandel, Esq.

**dipWSET, CSW, Graduate AWS and International wine judge
St. Louis, MO**

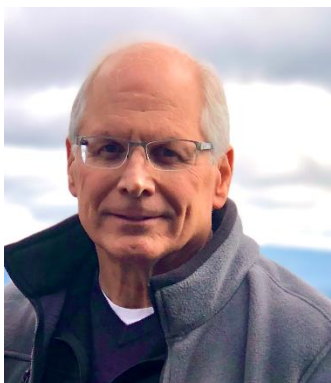
Aaron balanced his full-time career as an attorney while studying for his Master of Wine certification for five years. A task put on hold as Aaron made a move with his legal practice. Aaron holds a diploma from the Wine and Spirits Education Trust (dipWSET) and is also a Certified WSET wine educator. In addition, he is a Certified Specialist of Wine (CSW) through the Society of Wine Educators and tutored students testing through the Court of Master Sommeliers (CMS). He served as the Director of Education for America's largest consumer-based wine education organization, the American Wine Society (AWS) from 2015 to 2022, and is responsible for making AWS an official WSET program provider during his tenure. In addition, Aaron served as Chairman of the Wine Judge Certification Program with AWS. Aaron judges for some of the most prestigious international competitions in the world and teaches wine education for the Mid-American School of Wine.



Bob Madill

**WSET3, OIV International wine judge, CWJM, Wine Educator
Finger Lakes, New York**

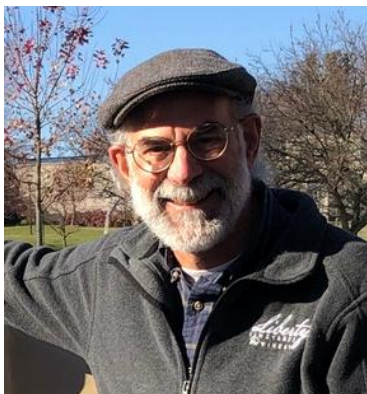
Bob co-founded Sheldrake Point Winery, Finger Lakes, NY in 1997 and was Winegrower & GM for 12+ years. He was on Kindred Fare's opening team, Geneva NY in late 2015 and served as Wine Director for several years. Bob is a Board Member of the New York Wine & Grape Foundation and is Chair of the Promotions Committee. Bob represents Tonnellerie Bossuet in the Finger Lakes, New York and Niagara, Ontario. He is the Head Judge for the Finger Lakes International Wine & Spirits Competition and the Eastern States Exposition Big E and judges annually at international wine competitions in Canada, the United States and Europe. Bob's certifications include WSET 3, Certified Sommelier (CS) through the Court of Master Sommeliers, and American Wine Society's Certified Wine Judge with Merit (CWJM), where he also serves as a National Wine Educator. For 15+ years Bob has provided Educational Wine Tours for industry professionals to classic European wine regions.



Kevin Ostrowski

**WSET3, CSW, CWJM, Champagne Master, AWS Director of Education
Beaver, Pennsylvania**

Kevin, a retired teacher and nuclear power executive, is the acting Director of Education for the American Wine Society (AWS). He is an AWS Certified Wine Judge with Merit (CWJM), an instructor in their Wine Judge Certification Program, and the Chapter Chair of the AWS Beaver County Chapter. Kevin holds WSET3 (with Merit), is a Certified Specialist of Wine (CSW), and has a Champagne Master Level Certificate from the Wine Scholar Guild (WSG). He belongs to the Wine Century Club and is PA RAMP Certified. He judges wine for Amateur and International Competitions across America and is also an award-winning amateur winemaker. Kevin teaches wine classes for residential and commercial clients, as well as Butler County Community College in Pennsylvania. Residing in Beaver, PA, Kevin and his wife Cheryl stay busy with family, cooking, gardening, traveling, and spending time with their 6-year-old grandson. "It's the people you're with that make every glass of wine memorable."



Robert Green
Winemaker, Educator
Erie Pennsylvania

Bob Green joins us with over 40 years of experience in the wine industry as a winemaker, educator and industry consultant. He started his career after receiving a biology degree from Penn State, working at a small winery in the Lake Erie Region and eventually taking over winemaking duties. Bob was an instructor for the Hospitality Department at Mercyhurst University in Erie, Pennsylvania teaching wine appreciation, beverage management and mixology for 25 years. He designed and taught a two-year associate program in enology for 10 years at Harrisburg area Community College in central Pennsylvania and recently developed and is the lead instructor for a workforce development certificate program at Penn State Berks in Reading, Pennsylvania. Bob continues to work directly with wineries across the northeastern United States as a consultant and enologist. Bob lives outside of Erie, Pennsylvania with his wife Pamela, where they enjoy sailing and spending time with their two grandchildren.



Carole Hackett
WSET2, CWJM, Sommelier
Frankfort, Kentucky

Carole began her career in healthcare, holding a degree in Biology and Chemistry, before transitioning into the wine industry, coaxed through her occasional stints working at her neighborhood wine shop. She has completed wine studies with UC Davis, Penn State, and the Society of Wine Educators, as well as participating in American Wine Society (AWS) conference continuing education intensives annually. Carol holds a WSET Level 2 certification with Merit and Sommelier through the National Wine School. With AWS, Carole is a Certified Wine Judge with Merit, serves as Regional Ambassador for Eastern Kentucky and acts as education liaison for the Frankfort chapter. She also mentors' students within the Certified Wine Judging Program. With over twelve years of judging experience in international, commercial, and amateur wine competitions across the United States, Carol's favorite wines are the ones shared amongst friends.



Melissa Bartlett
CWJ, Wine Educator
Haymarket, Virginia

Melissa is a Certified Wine Judge through the American Wine Society's (AWS) training program and an accomplished wine educator, sharing her expertise with both the public and industry insiders, including presenting at AWS national conferences. Melissa has also held leadership roles for AWS including Amateur Wine Competition Chair, Super Taster Instructor, held chapter chair positions in Virginia and serving on the conference sessions committee. Her hands-on experience working with Virginia wineries and as a manager at the Inn at Little Washington (a Relais & Chateau property) has given her a comprehensive perspective on the industry—from vineyards and harvest to winemaking, bottling, sales, public relations, and marketing. She has completed wine intensives at UC Davis, along with training focused on cider and mead analysis. Melissa was the Faults Arbitrator for the inaugural Terroir New Jersey Wine Showcase and is returning as a wine evaluator. Her judging background spans over 13 years and covers a wide array of competitions throughout America in wine, spirits, cider, and mead.



Nancy Stabins
WSET2, CSW, Certified Texas Wine Ambassador
Webster, New York

Nancy began her professional journey as a registered nurse, founding Natural Alternatives Inc, a holistic health practice in 1994. Her passion for wine led her to sell her company in 2024. She obtained her designation as a Certified Specialist of Wine through the Society of Wine Educators and WSET level 2 with Merit through the Wine and Spirits Education Trust. She is also a Certified Texas Wine Ambassador from the Hill Country Academy. Nancy serves as board member, Director of Judge Logistics, and Judge Room Coordinator for Rodeo Austin Texas International Wine Competition. Additionally, Nancy is Communications Director and Advisory Board Member for the Great American International Wine Competition. Her organizational expertise also encompasses beer and amateur competitions. As a member of the American Wine Society, she served on the national wine education committee, was Regional Vice President for New York, and was recognized as Outstanding VP in 2018. Currently, Nancy serves as a wine judge for international, commercial and amateur competitions throughout the United States. In her leisure time, she enjoys rug hooking with an aged glass of Riesling.

About KdV Wine Services, LLC

Sharyn Kervyn de Volkaersbeke dipWSET, CSW, CWJM, Sommelier, International OIV Wine Judge

Terroir New Jersey has appointed Sharyn Kervyn de Volkaersbeke, owner of KdV Wine Services, to manage the Terroir New Jersey Wine Showcase. This decision was made based on her extensive expertise, reputation and credentials, which are well aligned with our mission, thereby ensuring that the goals will be met and surpassed.

Sharyn holds a diploma with honors from the Wine and Spirit Education Trust, is a Certified Specialist of Wine with the Society of Wine Educators, and Sommelier through the Court of Master Sommeliers. She is also an International OIV and American Wine Society (AWS) Certified Wine Judge with Merit, presiding over numerous competitions in America and Europe annually, including OIV Berliner Trophy, AWE International in Vienna Austria and London's International Wine Challenge, where she was promoted from Associate to Judge in her first year, a distinction seldom bestowed.

Sharyn opened the Getty Center Museum in Los Angeles as catering director and held positions as wine director and general manager in California, Philadelphia, and New Jersey. Her achievements have garnered media coverage in LA Confidential, Los Angeles Times, and E Television. Additionally, she lectures and conducts wine seminars for various organizations across America and London and serves on the national wine education committee for AWS.

In her spare time, she teaches wine education courses she developed for AWS, Rutgers University, and Camden County College (WineLogic Advanced is now a CWP Certification Course). Her notable credentials and extensive experience earned her an invitation to SommCon Rhône Master's immersion camp, membership in London's esteemed Association of Wine Educators (AWE), and annual 'Best of' Wine Spectator Awards during her 15-year tenure as the Wine Director for The Capital Grille.

Prior to achieving her numerous Advanced Wine Certifications, Sharyn assisted running the back rooms at Atlantic Seaboard Wine Competition and the American Wine Society (AWS) Amateur and Commercial Competitions.

Sharyn has conducted hundreds of blind tastings through the years, on a consumer, corporate and national level for audiences upwards of 500 people. She also ran the National Tasting Project (NTP) for AWS for 6 years (2015-2021), which required her to conduct a wine selection competition (judged blind with certified judges) each year prior to the start of the NTP. This is an annual event for AWS, where the 7000+ member body participates in judging the winning wines for themselves throughout the year as a means of 'Calibration'.

Please refer to the website link below for a more complete list of competitions and additional information:

[KdV Wine Services | Wine Promotion, Consulting & Event Services](#)

Alternate Evaluators 2026 Terroir New Jersey Wine Showcase



Susan Lynham

DipWSET, CWE, FWS, AWE, WSET Certified Instructor

With over 12 years of experience in the wine industry, Susan is a highly accomplished wine educator dedicated to advancing wine knowledge and professional training across all sectors of the industry. Holding the prestigious WSET Diploma, Susan is also a WSET Certified Educator in Wine, a Certified Wine Educator through the Society of Wine Educators and achieved honors recognition as a French Wine Scholar from the Wine Scholar Guild. Susan serves as an instructor at Philly Wine LLC as a WSET Certified Educator in Wine and has also begun teaching WSET courses at Drexel University in Philadelphia. An active member of the American Wine Society, Susan has taught the WineSmarts II course at the organization's annual conference and served as a judge for Commercial and Amateur wine competitions across America. Additionally, Susan is a member of the UK-based Association of Wine Educators. Susan works closely with wineries, restaurants, and industry organizations to elevate staff expertise and enhance guest experience through customized wine education and training programs. Through a combination of deep technical knowledge and practical industry insight, Susan continues to shape wine education with a dynamic, tailored approach.



Stephanie Vogtman-Sey

CS, Assistant Winemaker, Horton Vineyards

Stephanie Vogtman-Say is the Assistant Winemaker at Horton Vineyards, bringing more than 26 years of experience in the craft beverage and hospitality industry to her work in wine production and education. Before joining Horton, she honed her skills alongside renowned sparkling winemaker Claude Thibaut and worked with several respected wineries throughout Monticello AVA.

Stephanie holds a master's degree in Oenology from University of California, Davis and is also a Certified Sommelier, combining technical expertise with a deep appreciation for hospitality and wine culture.

A passionate world traveler, she draws inspiration from international wine regions, culinary traditions, and global beverage practices, bringing a thoughtful and adventurous perspective to her winemaking. Known for her approachable style and dedication to quality, Stephanie continues to contribute to Virginia's evolving wine industry through both innovation and tradition.