

press release

Winners of Inaugural Wine Pinnacle Awards 2019 Announced at Resorts World Sentosa

Results for the world's first-ever nomination-based wine award features a diverse and inclusive list cutting across geography and vintage, while highlighting sustainable practices



Award winners and committee members of the inaugural Wine Pinnacle Awards 2019



SINGAPORE, 10 October 2019 – Winners of the inaugural Wine Pinnacle Awards, presented by Genting Singapore, were announced at its flagship lifestyle destination, Resorts World Sentosa on 10 October 2019. Out of the 27 categories, the **Grand Jury award** has crowned **Domaine Coche-Dury** as the recipient of this esteemed accolade. Celebrating the absolute best of this year's showing, the Grand Jury award is specially judged and selected by the Wine Pinnacle Awards Committee from among the winners across all categories.

The black-tie award ceremony held at the Resorts World Ballroom was attended by distinguished winemakers, top wine professionals and wine critics from around the world. The exceptional gathering of the international wine community in Singapore for the first time at the Wine Pinnacle Awards also marks the beginning of a new and exciting landmark wine event in Asia which is seeing a growing appreciation for fine wines.

A Celebration of Excellence and Diversity

A nomination-based recognition of wines without restrictions on origin or need for submissions or entry fees, the Wine Pinnacle Awards is the first of its kind in the world, providing an independent platform that allows for greater inclusivity. The awards also honour wineries with sustainable practices, young winemakers, and wines that present diversity across a broad spectrum be they old or new world, young or mature, as well as wines from established regions which are currently under the radar.

"As part of the Wine Pinnacle Awards Committee, it is an honour to be among such an impressive group of wine experts and professionals, bringing together a diverse group of winemakers and wines through our collective expertise and experience. It's very heartening to uncover wines that are under-appreciated as well as highlighting the very best wines in the world to give them the recognition they deserve for their quality and merit," shares Ms. Jeannie Cho Lee, Wine Pinnacle Awards Committee member and the first Asian Master of Wine.

"We are excited to be able to recognise and reward those who contribute to this dynamic wine industry. We are learning and already thinking of ways to improve the Wine Pinnacle Awards in the coming years, with a clear goal to provide an authoritative platform to showcase the most deserving wines and wine personalities from around the world," she continues.

Wine Pinnacle Awards Nomination Process

The Wine Pinnacle Awards Committee is comprised of five internationally reputable wine experts namely Ms Jeannie Cho Lee of Hong Kong, Mr Kenichi Ohashi of Japan, Mr Doug Frost of the United States, Mr Oz Clarke of the United Kingdom and Mr Andreas Larsson of Sweden. They were responsible for establishing the nomination structure and formation of a credible jury from different parts of the world, including Asia, the US and Europe, with 33 Masters of Wine and 9 Master Sommeliers among its 54 members. The committee also oversaw the nomination process and ensured its focus on quality and merit. The results are a culmination of the expert opinions of the world's leading wine professionals, from a total of 1,069 nominations received from the jury.

Votes by the jury were gathered by way of a secure and anonymous online nomination ballot. Each category accommodated up to nine nominations, which were later narrowed down to five in the nomination list revealed in August. The jury were invited to submit nominations in sequence of their preference with each nomination carrying different points. Nominees with the highest points are the winners of their category.

This celebration of diversity and excellence is apparent from the 27 award categories that include recognition towards mature wines that are ready to drink such as Best Bordeaux Wine from 1996 and Best Burgundy White from 2008, 'Best Organic/Natural Wine of the Year', 'Best Recent Releases', 'Best Chinese Red', 'Best Young Winemaker of the Year', 'Black Swan', 'Unsung Hero', 'Best Friend of the Earth' and 'Hidden Treasures'. The crown jewel is the 'Grand Jury Award' that was determined by the Wine Pinnacle Awards Committee. The winner of this coveted title was chosen from amongst all the winners from the other categories.

Highlights from the Results of the Wine Pinnacle Awards

Grand Jury Award: Domaine Coche-Dury

“The Grand Jury award was a unanimous decision by the five committee members and this year, it is being given to Domaine Coche-Dury. The wines of Coche-Dury are the epitome of great, age-worthy white Burgundy. Their global influence as a beacon of quality and dedication is widely recognized but what many may not be aware of, is that the estate remains small; still family-run, dedicated to quality and modest in price when the wines leave the cellar. We applaud the family’s ongoing dedication to crafting incredible, intense wines and influencing generations of white wine growers around the world.” – Jeannie Cho Lee, MW

Best Chinese Red: Ao Yun, Yunnan, China

“We are delighted to award the Best Chinese Red to Ao Yun for proving to the world that China can produce world-class wine, even in the most remote and challenging conditions – in Yunnan mountain at 2,600 meters in altitude.” – Jeannie Cho Lee, MW

Black Swan Of The Year (Most Thought Provoking Wine): Gravner, Anfora Pinot Grigio Venezia Giulia IGT, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Italy

Gravner is a daring winemaker that has masterfully taken ancient winemaking techniques, refined them to modern standards and created an exciting array of bold and expressive wines that the wine world has fallen in love with.” – Andreas Larsson (Sommelier of the World (2007 ASI))

Best Friend Of The Earth (Most Environmentally-Conscious): Miguel Torres, Familia Torres, Spain

“Miguel Torres’ importance within Spain’s wine industry cannot be overstated, with at least three decades of innovation affecting all aspects of wine, from the vine to the bottle on the table or on the shelf. But it is Senior Torres’ impact across the globe that has not always been seen and heralded. By focusing upon sustainable actions, beyond more narrow and specific philosophies, he has challenged his peers and inspired countless others among us to live up to the standards of his unrelenting achievements.” – Doug Frost, MW & MS

Best Young Winemaker Of The Year (Under 40): Morgan Twain-Peterson MW, Bedrock Wine Co., USA

“Morgan Twain-Peterson's stunning successes didn't come out of nowhere; his father, Joel Peterson, is one of America's three greatest interpreters and pioneers of Zinfandel. Morgan's affinity for wine was first noted in David Darlington's book, *Angel's Visits* (Morgan was five years old) and he has been making wine since finishing college. He earned the prestigious Master of Wine title in 2017 and under the Bedrock Wine Company rubric is making superb wines from old California vines.” – Doug Frost, MW & MS

Best Organic/Natural Wine Of The Year: Domaine Marcel Lapierre, Cuvée Marcel Lapierre, Beaujolais, France

“The term ‘natural wine’ is now widely known in many wine-consuming countries, and consumers have been enjoying the experience brought by natural wines. It is no surprise that Domaine Marcel Lapierre – highly respected in the world of natural wine – won this fantastic award. From the 1970s, the late winemaker Domaine Marcel went against the trend at that time and started chemical-free cultivation. Encouraged by Jules Chauvet who is also based in Beaujolais, Marcel Lapierre was dedicated to producing wine without relying on antioxidants and built his own style. His wine undoubtedly deserves this award.” – Kenichi Ohashi, MW

Hidden Treasure: Australia: *Tyrrell's Wines, Vat 1 Semillon, Hunter Valley, Australia*

“Hunter Valley Semillon has been Australia's hidden treasure for as long as I've been drinking Australian wine. Experts adore the wines, but they never seem to gain general popularity. Yet they are true Aussie Classics and they boast a flavour unlike that of any other wine in the world. Tyrrells Vat 1 has been the leading example for many years and gives immense pleasure to the small devoted band who drink it.” – Oz Clarke, award-winning wine writer

Hidden Treasure: Bordeaux: *Château Roc de Cambes, Bordeaux, France*

“This is a wonderful property, tumbling down the limestone slopes outside the ancient town of Bourg, in a natural amphitheatre which allows the vines to capture all the sun's warmth as well as the influence of the Gironde Estuary directly below. The Appellation Cotes de Bourg is not a famous one, but the devoted winemaker and owner is Francois Mitjaville who also produces the celebrated Saint Emilion Chateau Terre Roteboeuf. He lavishes just as much care on Roc de Cambes and the glorious, sumptuous result is one of Bordeaux's greatest Hidden Treasures.” – Oz Clarke, award-winning wine writer

The above list is in no particular order, and the full list of winners for Wine Pinnacle Awards can be found at the Annex.

The GREAT Wine & Dine Festival from 11 - 12 October 2019

Happening from 11 to 12 October, The GREAT Wine & Dine Festival which is held in tandem with the inaugural Wine Pinnacle Awards will showcase over 400 wines, including some of these award-winning bottles. The festival also has a dedicated zone which features sake breweries from Japan in partnership with the Japan Sake & Shochu Makers Association.

Other than enjoying these wines with gourmet cured meats and cheese from Euraco Foods, visitors can also look forward to a smorgasbord of festival exclusive dishes from RWS celebrity chef restaurants, such as newly-minted Michelin-starred table65, Fratelli Trattoria and TEPPAN by Chef Yonemura, along with a first-in-Singapore pop-up dining concept, Los Angeles' cult Lobsterdamus known for their grilled wild-caught Maine lobsters.

Wine connoisseurs and aspiring wine aficionados can look forward to a series of masterclasses on 11 and 12 October 2019. The Wine Committee will take attendees through topics, such as Tuscan wines, varietals unique to Japan and Spain, and the difference between new and old-world wines. Jeannie Cho Lee MW will even go deep into the effects of terroir through a collection of Pinot Noirs from around the world. Each masterclass is ticketed and limited to 25 per class.

Public can purchase tickets to the festival for 11 and 12 October (from S\$60 per person) with special rates for Mastercard card holders and RWS Invites members (from S\$42 per person) at www.thegreatfestival.sg.

- End -

Presented by



Official Loyalty Card



Organised by



Preferred Card Resortwide



Official Still & Sparkling Mineral Water Partner



Official Wine Storage Partner



Official Glassware Partner



Official Drinks Partner



Official Ice Cream Partner



Official Airline Partner



Official Luxury Media



©2019 The Coca-Cola Company. "Coca-Cola" is the trademark of The Coca-Cola Company.

ABOUT RESORTS WORLD SENTOSA

Resorts World Sentosa (RWS), Asia's premium lifestyle destination resort, is located on Singapore's resort island of Sentosa. Spanning 49 hectares, RWS is home to world-class attractions including Universal Studios Singapore, S.E.A. Aquarium, the Maritime Experiential Museum, Dolphin Island and Adventure Cove Waterpark. Complementing the adventure and adrenaline of its theme parks and attractions are six unique luxury hotels, the world-class Resorts World Convention Centre, a casino and the Asian flagship of a world-renowned destination spa. RWS offers award-winning dining experiences and exciting cuisine from around the world across its many renowned celebrity chef restaurants, establishing itself as a key player in Singapore's vibrant and diverse dining scene and a leading gourmet destination in Asia for epicureans. The integrated resort also offers world-class entertainment, from original resident productions to concerts and public shows such as Crane Dance and Lake of Dreams. RWS has been named "Best Integrated Resort" since 2011 for nine consecutive years at the TTG Travel Awards which recognises the best of Asia-Pacific's travel industry.

RWS is wholly owned by Genting Singapore, a company of the Genting Group. For more information, please visit www.rwsentosa.com.

 /ResortsWorldatSentosa   @rwsentosa  www.rwsentosablog.com

ABOUT WINE PINNACLE AWARDS 2019

Organised by Genting Singapore and held at Resorts World Sentosa, the Wine Pinnacle Awards 2019 is a celebration of the world's finest wines. The inaugural event honours mature, ready-to-drink as well as young, recently-released bottles, with a strong focus on current wine trends. Shaping up to be the premium wine event for connoisseurs and beginners in Southeast Asia, it is also the gathering of some of the world's leaders when it comes to oenology. For more information, please visit www.winepinnacle.com.

MEDIA CONTACTS

Resorts World Sentosa

Chloe Li

Tel: + 65 6577 9759

Mobile: +65 9067 1390

Email: chloe.myli@rwsentosa.com

Food News (for Resorts World Sentosa)

Cheryl Ho

Mobile: +65 9626 4989

Email: cheryl@foodnews.com.sg

EDITORS' NOTES

1. High resolution photographs can be downloaded from this link: <https://app.box.com/s/g8829yo364w573ka5cb3e9zdkbda90tw>
2. Full list of results is available on www.winepinnacle.com.
3. All photographs are to be attributed to Resorts World Sentosa (圣淘沙名胜世界) unless otherwise stated.

ANNEX

WINE PINNACLE AWARDS 2019 TOP 5 NOMINEES & WINNERS

Grand Jury Award

- **Domaine Coche-Dury (Winner)**

Best 1996 Vintage Bordeaux

- **1996 Château Latour, Pauillac, France (Winner)**
- 1996 Château Lafite Rothschild, Pauillac, France
- 1996 Château Léoville-Las Cases, Grand Vin de Léoville, Saint-Julien, France
- 1996 Château Margaux, Margaux, France
- 1996 Pétrus, Pomerol, France

Best 1999 Vintage Barolo

- **1999 Giacomo Conterno, Monfortino, Barolo Riserva DOCG, Italy (Winner)**
- 1999 Bartolo Mascarello, Barolo DOCG, Piedmont, Italy
- 1999 Bruno Giacosa, Falletto Riserva - Falletto Vigna Le Rocche, Barolo DOCG, Italy
- 1999 Luciano Sandrone, Le Vigne, Barolo DOCG, Italy
- 1999 Poderi Aldo Conterno, Granbussia, Barolo Riserva DOCG, Italy

Best 2002 Vintage Champagne

- **2002 Salon, Cuvée 'S' Le Mesnil Blanc de Blancs, Champagne, France (Winner)**
- 2002 Krug, Clos du Mesnil Blanc de Blancs Brut, Champagne, France
- 2002 Louis Roederer, Cristal Brut Millesime, Champagne, France
- 2002 Pol Roger, Cuvée Sir Winston Churchill Brut, Champagne, France
- 2002 Taittinger, Comtes de Champagne Blanc de Blancs Brut, Champagne, France

Best 2005 Vintage Burgundy Red

- **2005 Domaine de la Romanée-Conti, Romanee-Conti Grand Cru, Côte de Nuits, France (Winner)**
- 2005 Domaine Armand Rousseau, Pere et Fils Chambertin Grand Cru, Côte de Nuits, France
- 2005 Domaine Comte Georges de Vogue, Musigny Grand Cru, Cuvée Vieilles Vignes, Côte de Nuits, France
- 2005 Domaine de la Romanée-Conti, La Tache Grand Cru Monopole, Côte de Nuits, France
- 2005 Domaine Leroy, Musigny Grand Cru, Côte de Nuits, France

Best 2005 Vintage Rioja/Ribera Del Duero

- **2005 Vega Sicilia, Unico Gran Reserva, Ribera del Duero, Spain (Winner)**
- 2005 Dominio de Pingus, Pingus, Ribera del Duero, Spain
- 2005 La Rioja Alta S.A., Gran Reserva 890, Rioja DOCa, Spain
- 2005 R. Lopez de Heredia Vina Tondonia, Gran Reserva, Rioja DOCa, Spain
- 2005 Vega Sicilia, Tinto Valbuena 5, Ribera del Duero, Spain

Best 2007 Vintage Tuscan Red

- **2007 Tenuta San Guido, Sassicaia Bolgheri, Tuscany, Italy (Winner)**
- 2007 Isole e Olena, Cepparello Toscana IGT, Tuscany, Italy
- 2007 Case Basse di Gianfranco Soldera, Toscana IGT – Brunello di Montalcino DOCG, Tuscany, Italy
- 2007 Masseto, Toscana IGT, Tuscany, Italy
- 2007 Ornellaia, Bolgheri Superiore Tuscany, Italy

Best 2008 Vintage Australian Shiraz/Syrah

- **2008 Henschke, Hill of Grace Shiraz, Eden Valley, Australia (Winner)**
- 2008 Giaconda, Warner Vineyard Shiraz, Beechworth, Australia
- 2008 Jasper Hill, Georgia's Paddock Shiraz, HeathCôte, Australia
- 2008 Penfolds, Grange, Australia
- 2008 Wendouree, Shiraz Mataro, Claire Valley, Australia

Best 2008 Vintage Burgundy White

- **2008 Domaine Coche-Dury, Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru, Côte de Beaune, France (Winner)**
- 2008 Domaine de la Romanée-Conti, Montrachet Grand Cru, Côte de Beaune, France
- 2008 Domaine François Raveneau, Les Clos, Chablis Grand Cru, France
- 2008 Domaine Leflaive, Chevalier-Montrachet Grand Cru, Côte de Beaune, France
- 2008 Domaine Ramonet, Montrachet Grand Cru, Côte de Beaune, France

Best 2009 Vintage Cabernet Based California Wine

- **2009 Screaming Eagle, Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, USA (Winner)**
- 2009 Château Montelena, The Montelena Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, USA
- 2009 Diamond Creek, Volcanic Hill Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, USA
- 2009 Shafer Vineyards, Hillside Select Cabernet Sauvignon, Stags Leap District, USA
- 2009 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars, Cask 23 Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, USA

Best Recent Release: New World Pinot Noir

- **Ata Rangī, Pinot Noir, Martinborough, New Zealand (Winner)**
- Bass Phillip, Premium Pinot Noir, Gippsland, Australia
- Burn Cottage, Pinot Noir, Central Otago, New Zealand
- Felton Road, Block 5 Pinot Noir, Bannockburn, New Zealand
- Tolpuddle Vineyard, Pinot Noir, Coal River Valley, Australia

Best Recent Release: Non-Burgundy Chardonnay

- **Kumeu River, Mate's Vineyard Chardonnay, Kumeu, New Zealand (Winner)**
- Giaconda, Chardonnay, Beechworth, Australia
- Kumeu River, Coddington Chardonnay, Kumeu, New Zealand
- Leeuwin Estate, Art Series Chardonnay, Margaret River, Australia
- Penfolds, Yattarna Bin 144 Chardonnay, South Australia

Best Recent Release: Non-Champagne Sparkling Wine

- **Gusbourne Brut Reserve, Kent, England (Winner)**
- Domaine Carneros by Taittinger, Le Reve Blanc de Blancs Sparkling Brut, Napa Valley, USA
- Nyetimber, Rose Sparkling, West Sussex, England
- Ridgeview, Grosvenor Blanc de Blancs Brut, England
- Roederer Estate, L'Ermitage, Anderson Valley, USA

Best Recent Release: Sauvignon Blanc

- **Didier Dagenneau, Pouilly Fume Silex, Loire Valley, France (Winner)**
- Dog Point Vineyard, Section 94 Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand
- Domaine Gérard Boulay, Sancerre Chavignol, Loire Valley, France
- Domaine Vacheron, Sancerre Les Romains, Loire Valley, France
- Greywacke, Wild Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand

Best Recent Release: South American Red

- ***Almaviva, Puente Alto, Chile (Winner)***
- *Achaval Ferrer, Finca Altamira Malbec, San Carlos, Argentina*
- *Catena Zapata, Nicolas Catena Zapata, Mendoza, Argentina*
- *Cheval des Andes, Terrazas de Los Andes, Mendoza, Argentina*
- *Sena, Aconcagua Valley, Chile*

Hidden Treasure: Australia

- ***Tyrrell's Wines, Vat 1 Semillon, Hunter Valley, Australia (Winner)***
- *Grosset, Polish Hill Riesling, Clare Valley, Australia*
- *Jauma, McLaren Vale, Australia*
- *Stargazer, Chardonnay, Tasmania, Australia*
- *Thomas Wines, Hunter Valley, Australia*

Hidden Treasure: Bordeaux

- ***Château Roc de Cambes, Bordeaux, France (Winner)***
- *Château Grand Village, Blanc, Bordeaux, France*
- *Château Le Puy, Bordeaux, France*
- *Château Loudenne, Bordeaux, France*
- *Château Tertre Roteboeuf, Bordeaux, France*

Hidden Treasure: Burgundy

- ***Mark Haisma, Burgundy, France (Winner)***
- *Bret Brothers, Saint-Veran Climat En Combe, Maconnais, France*
- *Domaine Didier Montchovet, Bourgogne Hautes Côtes de Beaune Rouge, Burgundy, France*
- *Domaine Mee Godard, Morgon Côte de Py, Beaujolais, France*
- *Domaine Moreau-Naudet, Chablis, Burgundy, France*

Hidden Treasure: Piedmont

- ***G.D. Vajra, Petracine Langhe Riesling, Piedmont, Italy (Winner)***
- *Cappellano, Piedmont, Italy*
- *Cavalier Lorenzo Accomasso, Piedmont, Italy*
- *G.D. Vajra, Langhe Nebbiolo, Piedmont, Italy*
- *Poderi Aldo Conterno, Conca Tre Pile Barbera d'Alba, Piedmont, Italy*

Best Chinese Red

- ***Ao Yun, Yunnan, China (Winner)***
- *Grace Vineyard, Tasya's Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, Shanxi, China*
- *Helan Qing Xue, Jia Bei Lan Dry Red, Ningxia, China*
- *Silver Heights, Emma's Reserve, Ningxia, China*
- *Silver Heights, The Summit, Ningxia, China*

Best Organic/Natural Wine Of The Year

- ***Domaine Marcel Lapierre, Cuvée Marcel Lapierre, Beaujolais, France (Winner)***
- *Domaine Jean Foillard Morgon, Côte du Py, Beaujolais, France*
- *Domaine Sébastien Riffault, Sancerre Auksinis, Loire, France*
- *Foradori, Sgarzon Teroldego Vigneti delle Dolomiti IGT, Trentino-Alto Adige, Italy*
- *Ochota Barrels, 186 Grenache, McLaren Vale, Australia*

Best Rose In The World

- **Lopez de Heredia Vina Tondonia, Gran Reserva Rosado, Rioja DOCa, Spain (Winner)**
- Château d'Esclans, Côtes de Provence Garrus Rose, France
- Domaine de la Mordorée, Tavel La Dame Rousse Rose, Rhône, France
- Domaine Tempier, Bandol Rose, Provence, France
- Domaines Ott, Château de Selle Côtes de Provence Cœur de Grain Rose, France

Black Swan Of The Year (Most Thought Provoking Wine)

- **Gravner, Anfora Pinot Grigio Venezia Giulia IGT, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Italy (Winner)**
- Arnot-Roberts, Sonoma Coast Syrah, California, USA
- Château Pierre-Bise, Savennieres Roches aux Moines, Loire, France
- Luke Lambert, Syrah, Yarra Valley, Australia
- Radikon, Ribolla Gialla Venezia Giulia IGT, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Italy

Best Friend Of The Earth (Most Environmentally-Conscious)

- **Miguel Torres, Familia Torres, Spain (Winner)**
- Isabelle Legeron MW, UK
- Jacques Néauport, France
- Lalou Bize-Leroy, Domaine Leroy, France
- Nicolas Joly, Château de la Roche aux Moines, France

Best Young Winemaker Of The Year (Under 40)

- **Morgan Twain-Peterson MW, Bedrock Wine Co., USA (Winner)**
- Amélie Berthaut, Domaine Berthaut-Gerbet, France
- Donovan Rall, Rall Wines, South Africa
- Fernando Mora MW, Bodegas Frontonio, Spain
- Maxime Cheurlin, Domaine Georges Noellat, France

Top Wine Influencer (Under 45)

- **Pascaline Lepeltier MS, Racines NY, USA (Winner)**
- Erwan Faiveley, Domaine Faiveley, France
- Madeline Puckette, Wine Folly, USA
- Olivier Berrouet, Pétrus, France
- Ronan Sayburn MS, United Kingdom

Unsung Hero

- **István Szepsy, Szepsy, Hungary (Winner)**
- Angiolino Maule, VinNatur, Italy
- Carlo Ferrini, Podere Giodo, Italy
- Eric Boissenot, Château les Vimières, France
- Maxence Dulou, Ao Yun Vineyards, China

**Note to Editors: The winners are listed at the top of each category. The remaining nominees are listed not in order of ranking but in alphabetical order. This list is also published online at www.winepinnacle.com*

Profiles of the Wine Pinnacle Awards Committee Members



Jeannie Cho Lee is the first Asian Master of Wine and an award-winning author, television host, editor, wine critic, judge and educator. She has been a professor at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University where she helped to launch the Master of Science (MSc) in International Wine Management program since 2012. Recognized for her contributions to the food and drinks industry, Lee was selected as one of the top 100 most influential people in Hong Kong by the South China Morning Post and Debrett's in November 2015. She was named the 25th most powerful person in wine by Decanter magazine (UK) and was listed among the top 60 most influential people in wine by La Revue du Vin (France) in 2015 and won the International Vinality Award (Italy) in 2009.



Kenichi Ohashi is a Master of Wine and sake expert based in Tokyo, Japan. He is the third-generation owner of Yamajin Co. Ltd., a distribution company specialised in wine, sake and local spirits. He also owns a consultancy company, Red Bridge Co. Ltd. and is a Director of Somersault Co. Ltd., the biggest business group of liquor retailers in Japan. He was awarded Personality of the Year 2016 at the International Wine Challenge. Ohashi has been certified as a Sake Expert Assessor, the highest qualification of National Research Institute of Brewing Japan, and is also the sake co-chairman of the International Wine Challenge.



Doug Frost is a Master of Wine (MW) and Master Sommelier (MS) as well as an author and wine consultant based in Kansas City, Missouri. Frost is one of three individuals in the world to hold simultaneously the MW and MS titles. The Wine Spectator has bestowed the accolade of Master of Spirits on Frost. In 2006, Frost along with a few partners founded the Beverage Alcohol Resource (BAR), a spirits and cocktail educational organisation. Cheers Magazine selected BAR and its founders as Innovators of the Year for 2007. He was awarded Beverage Innovator of the Year 2009 by Cheers Magazine.



Photo credit: Keith Barnes Photography

Oz Clarke is one of the world's leading wine experts, whose formidable reputation is based on his extensive wine knowledge and accessible, no-nonsense approach. His passion for the subject dates from his student days at Oxford University, where he won tasting competitions at a precociously early age. Since then, his tasting skills have won him an international reputation and he is acknowledged as having one of the finest palates of anyone writing about wine today. He brings a refreshingly unorthodox wit and directness to the subject and has won all the major wine writing awards both in the UK and the USA. Oz has written numerous books about wine and currently presents a weekly wine report on British prime time television.



Andreas Larsson is the Best Sommelier of the World (2007 ASI). He has a discerning palate and is a passionate wine lover. He is known not only for his incredible tasting abilities and vast knowledge, but also for his friendly and professional approach. He has a relaxed demeanor and is a highly sought-after taster, speaker and educator within the vast field of gastronomy, food, wine and other beverages. Despite his busy schedule, he still maintains his sommelier functions as the Wine Director at PM & Vänner, a renowned restaurant located in Växjö Sweden.