



AWoCA 8: Meet our Judges



The 8th Annual Wines of Chile Awards—the Bicentennial Edition—has begun. Our 13 judges from 10 countries arrived in Chile on Friday and were whisked off to San Pedro de Atacama for the weekend. There they will have the opportunity to see a bit of what makes Chile such a spectacularly unique country. Chilean “terroir doctor,” Pedro Parra, PhD, will also offer them a seminar on the special conditions found in Chile’s 14 wine regions.

They will return to Santiago on Sunday and begin 3 days of tasting on Monday.

Meet the Judges:



Andreas Larsson, Sweden

Swedish sommelier Andreas Larsson’s passion for wine began during his studies at culinary school and continued to grow while working as a chef. In 1998 he began formal wine study and started working as a sommelier in Stockholm a year later. He began competing in-and winning-sommelier competitions shortly thereafter. He is the four-time winner of the Best Sommelier of Sweden competition, and his many trophies include the *Trophée Ruinart* (2003), the *Trophée Ruinart Meilleur Sommelier d’Europe* Best Sommelier of Europe (2004), Wine International Sommelier of the Year (2005), and the Best Sommelier of the World (2007). He has been the Wine Director at Sweden’s 15,000-bottle restaurant Pm & Vänner since 2006.



Steven Spurrier, United Kingdom

British-born Steven Spurrier joined the wine trade in London in 1964. He moved to Paris in 1970 where he purchased Les Caves de la Madeleine, a small wine shop in the center of the city and in early 1973 created *L’Academie du Vin*, the first independent wine school in France. For the next 15 years he was deeply involved in all aspects of the French wine business. He organized the famous Judgment of Paris tasting in 1976, which changed the course of the wine world, and in 1988 he was named “*La Personnalite de l’Annee* (Enology) for his contributions to French wines. That year he returned to the UK to become an international wine consultant and wine writer. With several books on wine and numerous awards to his credit, today he is Consultant Editor for *Decanter Magazine*, President of the Circle of Wine Writers, and Chair of the *Decanter*

World Wine Awards.



Jorge Lucki, Brazil

After completing his studies in engineering and business administration, Jorge Lucki, of Brazil, set out to learn all he could about wine. He studied at the *L'Academie du Vin* in Paris, the *Bureau Interprofessionnel des Vins de Bourgogne*(BIVB), and the Institute of Enology of Bordeaux. He traveled widely throughout France, Italy, and continues visiting and exploring the wine regions of the world. He regularly participates in international trade shows and is the technical director of *Expovinis*, Latin America's largest wine fair.

Jorge founded the Brazilian Association of Sommeliers and the Brazilian Society of Friends of Wine. He is a member of the Alentejo Wine Society and the Brotherhood of Port wine. He has consulted for the translations of major wine books in Brazil and is the co-author of the *Descorchados* Guide for South America. He is a wine consultant, educator, and columnist for the *Valor Econômico* newspaper and *ValorInveste* and *Prazeres da Mesa* magazines.

Héctor Vergara, MS, Chile



Chile's own highly respected Héctor Vergara is Latin America's only Master Sommelier, a title he has held since 1982. After an illustrious career as a sommelier in England, France, and Canada, he returned to Santiago in 1998 and co-founded *Cavas Reunidas* and *El Mundo del Vino*. He also co-founded Chile's Sommelier Association the same year and has been the president ever since. He travels extensively as a consultant and promoting Chilean wine, is the author of the book *El Vino Perfecto* on food and wine pairing, and has won numerous awards and honors in Europe, Canada, and Chile.

Tomoko Ebisawa, MS, Japan



Japanese Sommelier Tomoko Ebisawa studied wine and tasting methods at the *L'Academie du Vin* in Paris and joined *Vinothèque* wine magazine in 1988 and is now the senior editor in Japan. She has traveled extensively throughout and writes about the world's wine regions. Tomoko teaches wine appreciation courses for consumers and offers seminars for members of the trade. She also organizes major wine-related events, is active in the Japanese Sommelier Association and translated and published a book on Port wine.

Jeannie Cho Lee, China



Jeannie Cho Lee is the first Asian Master of Wine (MW) and an award-winning author, wine critic, judge and educator. Jeannie's website AsianPalate.com contains thousands of wine ratings, reviews and a comprehensive Asian food and wine pairing guide. She is currently a Contributing Editor for *Decanter* UK and a weekly columnist for Hong Kong's *South China Morning Post* and Mainland China's *China Business News*. She is also a consultant for Singapore Airlines and is involved in selecting all the wines served on all routes. Recognized for her iconic style and contributions to the wine industry, Jeannie won the Vinitaly Award in 2009, and in 2010 she became the face person for a new product launched by Estee Lauder in Hong Kong and China.



Josh Reynolds, United States

Josh Reynolds is the Assistant Editor of Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar and a contributor to winophilia.com, Tanzer's online wine magazine. Since 2005 Josh has been responsible for the IWC's annual reviews of the wines of Chile, Oregon, California's Sonoma Valley and Central Coast, Spain, France's Loire Valley, Champagne, Mâcon, Beaujolais, and Rhône Valley, and Australia. Shortly after his 1985 graduation from Boston University he began working in retail in Washington D.C., followed by an extended journey (with occasional winery and harvest toil) through the vineyards and cellars of Europe in 1989 and 1990. Upon his return to the U.S. in 1991 he began working on the import side of the trade, where he stayed until joining the IWC.



Joshua Greene, United States

Editor and Publisher of *Wine & Spirits* magazine since 1986, Joshua Greene began working in wine shops during college and later spent a summer as a wine captain for a small inn in Massachusetts. After graduating from Princeton University in 1981, he began his career in magazines, starting in management of special interest publications. His involvement with *Wine & Spirits* began on a consulting basis and eventually led to his purchase of the magazine in 1989. In addition to his duties as editor and publisher, Joshua is the critic for California, Bordeaux, Burgundy, Champagne, Italy, Portugal, Australia, and New Zealand, providing tasting notes and ratings for wines recommended by *Wine & Spirits*' tasting panels. He also contributes feature stories and commentary in each issue of the magazine.



Michael Schachner, United States

Michael Schachner is a New York-based journalist specializing in wine, food and travel. His articles regularly appear in *Wine Enthusiast Magazine*, where he is a longstanding contributing editor responsible for South America and Spain. A founding member of the magazine's tasting panel, Schachner reviews more than 1,500 wines annually for *WE* and frequently travels to Chile, Argentina, and Spain to meet with wine producers and keep abreast of the constantly changing global wine map.



François Primeau, Canada

François Primeau has worked for the Quebec liquor board (SAQ) since 1984, where he was a store manager for 16 years. He became a wine educator in 1996 and continues to develop new consumer-oriented courses on a variety of alcoholic beverages. He joined the SAQ marketing team in 2008 as an information agent and a products expert. He sits on the board's tasting panels for product selection, interacts with the specialized press, organizes promotional events, and is a regular contributor to a radio program in Quebec.



Oz Clarke, United Kingdom

One of the wine world's best known personalities, Oz Clarke is a prolific writer with many major awards to his credit, and his very popular TV shows have made him a household name in the UK. His wine career began when he captained the wine-tasting team for Oxford University before going on to becoming a Shakespearean actor. He turned to full-time writing in the mid-1980s and has published numerous books on wine, including his famous Wine Atlas, the annual Oz Clarke Pocket Wine Guide, and a digital guide to world wines and regions. He regularly appears on a broad range of BBC TV programs and has hosted several series of his own including the exceedingly popular Oz and James Big Wine Adventure in France, another in California, and then Oz and James Drink to Britain. During his guest appearances at the BBC Good Food Shows throughout the UK each year, Oz regularly presents tutored tastings on behalf of Wines of Chile. In 2009 he won the International Wine Personality of the Year Award.



Kyung Ja (Corinne) Eom, MS, Korea

From French literature to wine to the Court of Master Sommeliers, Corinne Eom's career has led her to work in celebrated restaurants and hotels in France, California, Japan, and Korea. She writes a weekly column on wine for the Korea Economic daily newspaper, authored the book Wine Note, and contributes to a number of Korean magazines. She teaches wine courses and hosted the TV shows "Wannabe Sommelier" and "HiCEO" and an e-lecture course.



Shari Mogk-Edwards, Canada

Currently the Vice President of the LCBO Merchandising Department in the Sales and Marketing division, Shari Mogk-Edwards' 29-year career with the LCBO has led her through a series of progressively responsible positions in retail, logistics, sales and marketing, including past positions as the Director of VINTAGES Sales and Purchasing and the Director of SPIRITS. Shari has represented the LCBO and VINTAGES on global buying trips since 1996 and has been an international wine judge since 1987. She holds the Higher Certificate from the Wine and Spirit Education Trust and has completed several courses at Schulich School of Business, as well as residence programs at the Richard Ivey School of Business, University of Western Ontario. Among Shari's many awards is the inaugural Partnership Award from the Ontario Imported Wine-Spirit-Beer Association, which she won in 2006.