



PENNSYLVANIA WINERY ASSOCIATION

Sommelier Judgement Day 2024

Meet the Judges!

NOELLE
ALLEN

PhillyWine School

Noelle began her career in finance and earned her MBA, but quickly decided Corporate America wasn't for her, so she began studying wine with the London-based Wine & Spirits Education Trust (WSET) in 2014 because it was a globally recognized certificate and was recommended by international colleagues. She became an instructor with PhillyWine in 2017, and eventually the business was handed to me and my business partner by the previous owner, who was retiring. In the interim, she became a partner at a wine import company, and wrote wine articles (on the PA wine scene!) for Eater Philly, as well as post for her now-defunct blog, Wine LALA. Now she spends her days running and growing PhillyWine, teaching WSET classes, and hosting wine events... and I just love it.

Email: noelle.allen@phillywine.com Phone: (215) 313-8743 Social: @noelle_allen_ and @phillywineschool

ARINDAM
BASU

Total Wine & More

Arindam has earned a Level 4 (diploma in wines) from WSET and works at Total Wine where they sell some wines made from hybrid grapes. He teaches WSET courses and is also the co-owner of A&R Wine Services LLC, where they provide private wine tasting events, wine classes and wine pairing dinners.

Email: arindamorama@gmail.com Phone: (267) 258-3118 Social: @aribasur8

WILLIAM
BRIGHT

The Sagamore Pendry

William Bright is a Sommelier with 12 years of experience working in luxury hotels and restaurants in Washington DC and Baltimore.

Email: wab944@gmail.com Phone: (910) 476-9097 Social: @sauvignonpunk

NOELLE
CASINELLI

Creeds Seafood and Steaks

Noelle has been a sommelier for 7 years, during that time she has run four successful wine programs, while educating apprentices and junior sommeliers. She went to CIA in Hyde Park, New York for pastry and went out to the Napa location to learn more about pastry and wine. Since then, she started as a hostess in this industry and now has been the GM of Creeds for the past two years, continuously growing the program and educating the staff.

Email: Noelle@sommsocialco.com Phone: (610) 657-8544 Social: @the.goudalife

TONIA
CHAHINE-LYNN

Vintage Imports

Tonia has been in the restaurant and wine industries for over 20 years in the Lehigh Valley. Creating and overseeing wine lists and beverage programs, she is always excited to learn more and spread knowledge to all willing to listen.

Email: Tlynn@vintageimportswines.com Phone: (610) 554-3010 Social: @ToniaChahineLynn

MARK
COCHARD

Franks Wine and Phillywine.com

Mark has been working in the wine industry as an avocation for over 30 years and has been a member of the Society of Wine Educators for 27 years, Worked at Chaddsford Winery for 22 years and have worked at Franks Wine in Wilmington, DE since 2016. Mark has been teaching WSET Level 4 Diploma, Section 3 Wines of the World, Specifically the Loire, The Rhone Valley and North America. In each of these regions there are many examples of cool climate grape varieties such as Cabernet Franc, Riesling, Pinot Noir, etc.

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WILLIAM
ECCLESTON

Panorama Wine Bar / Ristorante

Determined, diligent and innovative Sommelier/Beverage Director/General Manager has over 20 years of experience in restaurant operations, successfully growing and developing a broad client base and executing annually more than one hundred wine tasting events, dinners and wine receptions, with wine-paired menu items presented for private and corporate groups from 4 to 150 guests. Accomplished executive demonstrates a verifiable record of achievement in managing a diverse portfolio of wines and launching elite Events and Tastings while developing competitive cross-functional teams and maintaining key relationships with premier wine brands and local sales teams.

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RUSS
JOHNSON

Wine Specialist, PLCB, Philadelphia

Russ Johnson is a Wine Specialist for the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board currently working in Philadelphia. After working for a specialty wine store in Brooklyn, he returned to Philadelphia and completed the WSET-3 certification in 2019 while working for Penn's Woods Winery and City Winery Philadelphia. He also co-hosts a regular wine pairing dinner series and monthly wine class in Center City.

Email: rjohnsonwine@gmail.com Phone: (973) 975-2309 Social: @winepleb

CHRISTOPHER
MARCUS

Jean Georges at the Four Seasons

Christopher has worked in restaurants since he was 15 years old and fell in love with wine in college and have never looked back. He has run beverage programs in Chicago as well Pennsylvania, and is currently pursuing the Advanced Sommelier certification with the CMS.

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**PALMER
MARINELLI**

Wildings Events, The Mulberry, Fairmount Consulting

Palmer has worked in food and beverage for 20 years, with a decade plus as an advocate for local sustainable production. He has a master's in Ecology from the University of Gastronomic Science, where he took Vinology, and own an event company, Wildings, focused on local producers.

Email: palmer.marinelli@gmail.com Phone: (443) 458-2499 Social: @winepleb

**MIKE
MCALLISTER**

Metropolis Wines, NYC. Buyer/Mgr Veritas Studio Wines

Mike McAllister is a wine guy in NYC with 10+ years experience all around the industry. Ex and hopefully future farmer in NY, currently work producing sustainable events and galas in NYC.

Email: Mikewontstopwineing@gmail.com Phone: (646) 637-1597 Social: @MikeWontStopWineing

**KEVIN
OSTROWSKI**

Wine Educator at Butler County Community College

Retired from the nuclear power industry, Kevin Ostrowski has several wine certifications and judging experiences. Certifications include American Wine Society Certified Wine Judge, with Merit, CSW, WSET3, Intro level Sommelier, Champagne Master with WSG, Wine Century Club. He has participated in classes at Penn State - Wine Quality Initiative, and UC Davis Advanced Wine Sensory Analysis. His previous experience judging wine is extensive - - The Texas International (TXIWC); The Great American Wine Competition, Hudson Valley Food and Wine Competition; Atlantic Seaboard Wine Competition; American Wine Society Amateur and Commercial Wine Competition; The Big E Northeast Gold Wine Competition; The New York State Fair; The PA Somm Judgment last year, Wine Maker Magazine, PA Farm Show, - Overall, he has judged most of these annually, and is scheduled for many repeat appearances this year. He is a Wine Judge Instructor for the American Wine Society Wine Judge Training Program, and also teach wine classes for Butler County Community College.

Email: ostrowskikl@comcast.net Phone: (724) 987-2304 Social: @ostrowskikl

**BAILEY
PLACE**

Vine Bar Collective

Bailey Place was born and raised in Reading Pa and is now based in Lancaster. She studied in Pittsburgh and throughout Covid, gained experience in wine working for a winery in downtown Pittsburgh. This initial experience plunged her into a deep love of local wines and brought her to Lancaster. Here she has worked at multiple high tier restaurants and wine bars as well as volunteering time at local wineries during harvest and production.

Email: Bailey@vinebarvino.com Phone: (484) 769-1121 Social: @placebailey

**KIMBERLY
RANIELI**

Ruth's Chris Steakhouse

Kimberly is a Sommelier at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse. She has been the Wine Director/ Sommelier for about 8 years and grew out the wine list to achieve the Second Tier reward through Wine Spectator. She has an Introductory Course in the Court of Master Sommeliers and is about to test for my WSET 3 at the end of April.

Email: Kimran723@aol.com Phone: (570) 704-9234 Social: @KimberlyRanieli

**CHRISTOPHER
ROSE**

Christopher Rose grew up in NE Pennsylvania and for the past 9 years I've lived and work in Colorado within the hospitality industry ranging from a private country club to a restaurant at a boutique adventure hotel. He has designed wine lists, have tasted over 350 wines, and, as of recent, sell wine for a small distributor in New York City and New Jersey. He has a great affinity for wine and is excited to see where the market trends lead in terms of varietal, region, and how the domestic market develops.

Email: topher.rose04@gmail.com Phone: (570) 592-5250 Social: @rosedrinks wines

**STEPHEN
SCHMITZ**

Lagniappe Communications (and for Wine & Spirits Magazine)

Stephen is the Founder and Principal of Lagniappe Communications, an NYC based PR and communications consultancy, working with a variety of clients in the wine and beverage space. His background as a New Orleans native, LSU graduate, and growing up in southern Spain has given him a deep passion for the intersection of food & wine and the cultures they nourish.

Email: stephen@lagniappecomms.com Phone: (832) 567-1331 Social: @sommelay

**MARISSA
SWAILES**

Proof Lancaster

Melissa is currently with Proof Lancaster which is an upscale bar/restaurant with a worldly speakeasy vibe, (located in Lancaster, PA). She studied culinary arts at York Technical Institute and took individual courses at the International Culinary Center (prior to it becoming ICE) in NYC. Prior to her current position, she worked within the food and beverage industry as a food & beverage director with a country club for almost two years as well as a catering director with a wedding venue for over 5 yrs.

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CARRIE LYN
STRONG

Strong Wine Consulting

Sommelier Consultant with many projects in central PA including creating wine dinners, writing about wine, educating about wine, event planning and wine sales.

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RIJNARD VAN
TONDER

Mysten Labs (Software Engineering Company)

Rijnard is a Software Researcher by trade and earned his PhD in Computer Science from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh (19). He's written multiple award-winning research papers but finds it more interesting to write about wine instead now. He's a credentialed CMS Certified Sommelier (Court of Master Sommeliers) and a Certified Specialist of Wine.

Email: arvantonder@gmail.com Phone: (702) 815-4662 Social: @rvtond

BOB
TRIMBLE

Proprietor of La Lumiere Selections, an Importer/distributor and The Wine Guy® Consulting/Educational Services.

Bob Trimble has been a student of wine for 35+ years, is a wine and spirits professional and is the Proprietor of La Lumiere Selections, an Importer/distributor based in Pennsylvania, and The Wine Guy® Consulting/Educational Services. Bob's passion for wine and teaching has taken him throughout many of the world's great wine regions, as well as working in wine education for some of the largest Wine and Spirit companies in the world. His easygoing, down-to-earth approach to wine and wine education is what makes him a highly sought-after educator.

Bob has served as national wine educator for the massive, multinational Diageo Wines; was director of education, Wines and Champagne for the equally expansive Pernod-Ricard USA; national sales manager and director of education for Bonny Doon Vineyards; a regional sales manager with Seagram Chateau & Estate Wines Co; an instructor at Napa Valley's Sterling Vineyards School of Service & Hospitality; as well as being a founding board member of the American Sommelier Association, a judge at TEXSOM and the managing director of Starwine International Wine Competition.

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PHILLIP
THOMAS

Shot and Bottle

Thomas has been in the alcohol business for almost ten years, and has been studying at the wine school for almost two. He was the bar manager and wine director of Hunger N Thirst in Lancaster and is currently most interested in specializing in Pennsylvania, which is, in the grand scheme of things, uncharted territory, and hopes to bring a pioneering spirit to the industry.

Email: Philliprthomas@live.com Phone: (717) 342-9854 Social: @Philyourbartender

HAMILTON
WEAVER

Skurnik Wines & Spirits

Beverage Director for over a decade in CA and PA, trained through the CMS to the Advanced course and decided to not pursue their certifications any further, now working as a sales representative for an importer distributor where I get to travel to wine regions and visit producers as well as interact with buyers and consumers across the state (and beyond). PA Wine is the present and future which is why I've also made my own wine here in PA and plan to continue to do so. I let everyone I meet know that PA Wine is the future as the wineries and producers become more skilled and focused on premium tier wines, both hybrid and vinifera!

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SCOTT
ZOCCOLILLO

Director of Restaurants (MethodCo) and Advanced Sommelier

Scott Zoccolillo is the Director of Restaurants for Method Co. (Wm Mulherin's Sons, Hiroki, The Quoin) and an Advanced Sommelier through the Court of Master Sommeliers. He has 20+ years of hospitality experience and has helped cultivate and organize the Pennsylvania Sommelier Judgement. He has created and developed numerous award winning wine lists including those at Del Frisco's Double Eagle Steakhouse and Nectar.

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