

FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS: 2016 Symposium for Professional Wine Writers

Claire Adamson

Wine Writer
Wine-Searcher.com
Auckland, New Zealand

Claire Adamson has been drinking wine and writing words since leaving university, and has spent a large chunk of her career working in some of the best wine shops in the UK and New Zealand, as well as stints in copywriting and journalism. Her two key skills came together at Wine-Searcher, where she contributes news, features and encyclopedic content to the site. She is based in Auckland, New Zealand.

Jane E. Anson

Contributing Editor, Columnist, Author
Freelance
Bordeaux, France

Jane Anson is a Decanter contributing editor and is also Bordeaux correspondent and columnist for the magazine and Decanter.com, as well as for the South China Morning Post in Hong Kong. She is author of Bordeaux Legends, on the five 1855 First Growth wines.

Lana Bortolot

Freelance journalist
New York, New York

Based in New York City, Lana Bortolot is the east coast editor of The Tasting Panel and the SOMMJournal magazines, two nationally distributed magazines for the wine and spirits trade. She is the creator of the Quaff Report, the first blind tasting report by somms for somms regularly published in a magazine.

She has provided social media content consulting for a number of wine regions. She received the Advanced Certificate with Merit and the Intermediate Certificate with Distinction from the Wine & Spirits Educational Trust, and is currently working on the Diploma.

When not traveling to and writing about wine regions, Lana covers community development and real estate for the Wall Street Journal and New York Post, and design for the New York Post and Entrepreneur magazine. She is always looking for the next stamp in her passport.

Alfonso Cevola

Writer
Dallas, Texas

Alfonso writes On the Wine Trail in Italy (www.alfonsocevola.com/), a top wine blog in the world and winner of the 2012 Wine Blog Award for Best Single Subject.

Honored by the Italian Trade Commission with the Distinguished Service Award for longtime commitment and contribution to Italian wine.

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2013 recipient of Vinality International Award, for a lifetime of service with Italian wine.

Certified Specialist in Wine, Special Contributor to Dallas Morning News, contributor to The Art of Eating, Winesearcher.com, The Wine Enthusiast, The World of Fine Wine, SOMM Journal, LE PAN, The Drinks Business, Gault & Millau Review.

Andrew Chalk

Writer, Freelance
Dallas, Texas

Andrew Chalk is a Dallas-based author who writes about wine, spirits, beer, food, restaurants, wineries and destinations. He is a contributing writer and Dallas City Editor at The Daily Meal, a contributing writer at John Mariani's Virtual Gourmet, Somm Journal and Palate Press. Also wine and social editor at Modern Lifestyles (and Modern Lifestyles TV). He has also written for The Dallas Morning News, D Magazine, Food and Beverage Magazine.

He holds the WSET Level 3 certification in wines and spirits, the Certified Specialist of Wine certification from the Society of Wine Educators and the Italian Wine Professional certification. When not writing he can usually be found participating in his favorite sport of soccer. He also likes cooking, at which he is lousy, but enthusiastic.

James Conaway

Writer
Washington, DC

James Conaway is the author of ten books of non-fiction, including Napa and The Far Side of Eden, both about the California wine world. He has also published three novels, including, most recently, Nose, (St. Martin's Press). He has written for many magazines, including Harper's, Smithsonian, Outside, Gourmet, the Atlantic Monthly, Gourmet, Food and Wine and National Geographic Traveler. His blog is cjonwine.blogspot.com.

Jonathan Cristaldi

Deputy Editor
Tasting Panel Magazine & The SOMM Journal/Clever Root
Novato, California

Jonathan Cristaldi is the Deputy Editor for Tasting Panel Magazine & The SOMM Journal. His work has also appeared in First We Feast, Liquor.com, Los Angeles Magazine, NapaValleyWineAcademy.com, Time Out Los Angeles and the national editions of Thrillist and Tasting Table. Cristaldi founded The Noble Rot, a members-only, pop-up tasting club based in NYC, for which he was dubbed a "Wine Prophet" by Time Out New York for his creative, unconventional approach to wine education. He is a WSET Nominated Educator for WSET Levels 1 and 2.

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Alicia F. Cypress

Digital Editor, Investigations
National Public Radio
Arlington, Virginia

Alicia Cypress is an award-winning digital editor at National Public Radio where she is responsible for editing large investigative projects. Before that, she spent 16 years at The Washington Post where she worked with local, business, technology, environment and science content. She's a passionate oenophile who has just begun writing about wine professionally. Alicia has passed the Wine & Spirit Education Trust Level 2 Award with distinction and is a member of the Online News Association. She also writes for her own wine website: itswinebyme.com. Connect with her on Twitter (@alicyp and @itswinebyme), or on Instagram (@alicyp).

MaryAnn DeSantis

Writer, Freelance
maryanndesantis.com
Lady Lake, Florida

Living in Italy was the catalyst for Mary Ann to understand more about wine, and she now enjoys sharing what she's learned. Since 2010, her column "Salute" has covered topics for oenophiles of all levels — from novice wine drinkers to experienced connoisseurs. The column has received awards from the Florida Magazine Association and the Florida Press Club. In addition, she writes travel features for a variety of regional magazines, and in 2012 she received a 1st place award for travel writing from the Florida Press Club. Her website is www.maryanndesantis.com.

Eileen M. Duffy

Editor, Edible East End
Quogue, New York

Eileen M. Duffy has been writing about food and wine on the East End of Long Island since 2003. She holds a Level 4 certificate from the WSET, and her book on Long Island wine, *Behind the Bottle*, came out in 2015.

Marisa T. Finetti

Food and Wine Writer
Freelance
Las Vegas, Nevada

Marisa Finetti epitomizes integrity, energy, hard work and creativity in every detail of her career as a wine writer. Tokyo-born Marisa was raised in San Francisco, surrounded by her family's retail and restaurant businesses. After earning her journalism degree from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, Marisa grew zinfandel in Dry Creek Valley for 10 years. Now she spends most of her time writing about wine, if not sipping wine with her favorite somms in Las Vegas. Her stories have appeared in *Luxury Las Vegas*, *Vegas Seven*, *VEGAS*, *David*, *Desert Companion* and *Nevada* magazines, among others.

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Kelly J. Hayes

Wine Editor/ Columnist
The Aspen Times
Aspen, Colorado

Kelly Hayes is an Aspen, Colorado-based wine columnist, NFL Spotter, and ski guide. Perhaps best known for his involvement on both Sunday and Monday Night Football broadcasts since 1986, he also pens a weekly wine column, WineInk, and contributes to a number of publications on sports and lifestyle subjects.

Christina Julian

Columnist
NorthBay Biz
Calistoga, California

Christina Julian is a columnist for NorthBay Biz, where she sips and swirls for a living—the Napa Valley, her beat. Prior to escaping to the wine country she was a food and nightlife critic in Manhattan and an ad agency executive in LA. Her work has appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle, Brides California, Wine Enthusiast, California Home+Design, Napa Valley Register, Bohemian and Napa Valley Life. When she's not raising fork and goblet to mouth in the name of research, she can be found running through the vineyards with her hound and husband and their two-year-old twins.

James Knight

North Bay Bohemian
Santa Rosa, California

James Knight writes the wine column "Swirl" for the Bohemian, Sonoma and Napa County's alternative weekly, is a "Sonoma Insider" writing on all things wine—Sonoma County wine, that is—for SonomaCounty.com, and is an editor for one of the West Coast's top online wine merchants.

Adam Lechmere

Freelance Wine Writer
London, United Kingdom

Adam Lechmere has been writing about wine for 16 years. He launched Decanter.com in 2000 and was editor for 11 years before going freelance in 2010. He writes for Decanter, has a column in Food & Travel magazine, is Europe Editor for Wine Searcher and contributes to The World of Fine Wine, Le Pan, Harpers, Meiningers, Drinks International, Wine Enthusiast, the Guardian and other journals. He has profiled dozens of renowned men and women in the wine industry, from Robert Hill-Smith at Yalumba and Francis Ford Coppola at Inglenook to Mouton's Philippe Dhalluin and Josko Gravner. California, Southern France and Spain are particular specialities.

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John Lenart

Wine Writer
Chicago, Illinois

John Lenart is a wine writer and Emmy Award winning producer and director living in Chicago. Wine has been a passion of his for over 3 decades. What really drives this passion for wine is how it can bring people together. Lenart currently writes for Chicagoist.com, Binge Magazine and has been published in Crain's Chicago Business.

Ben MacPhee-Sigurdson

Wine Columnist/Literary Editor
Winnipeg Free Press
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Ben MacPhee-Sigurdson has been the weekly wine columnist at the Winnipeg Free Press since 2005, and also writes for Canadian wine websites WineAlign and My Wine Canada. He serves as a judge at national and international wine competitions and facilitates tastings and educational sessions throughout the city and beyond. Prior to writing for the Free Press, Ben worked as a wine consultant and educator at a number of private wine stores in Winnipeg. In addition to being the Free Press wine columnist Ben is also the literary editor.

Rachel Nichols

Managing Editor
Wine Business Monthly
Sonoma, California

Rachel Nichols is the Managing Editor of wine trade publication Wine Business Monthly. She started with the company in 2006 as Editorial Assistant. Rachel studied Communications with a double emphasis in Journalism and Public Relations at Sonoma State University, and was an editor of the college publication, The Star, for three years. Rachel loves to travel and check out the local wine bars, coffee shops and yoga studios while away.

Michele Parente

Dining + Lifestyle Reporter
The San Diego Union-Tribune
San Diego, California

Michele Parente is the Dining + Lifestyle Reporter for The San Diego Union-Tribune, covering restaurants, wine and fashion.

She was previously the U-T's Sunday and Features Editor and Assistant Features Editor for The Oregonian. Parente was a political reporter in Portland and New York City, for New York Newsday. She got her start on the schools and crime beats.

She is a member of the team that won the 1992 Pulitzer Prize for Spot News Reporting.

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Parente, a native New Yorker, speaks fluent Italian and has a life goal to visit every major wine region in the world.

Deborah Parker Wong

Journalist

Tasting Panel Magazine

San Francisco, California

Educator, journalist, author and consultant, Deborah Parker Wong, DWSET is Northern California editor for The Tasting Panel magazine and Senior Industry Editor for SOMM Journal where she reports on the global wine and spirits industries. In addition, she contributes features on business and technology to Vineyard & Winery Management magazine and the drinks business. Deborah holds the Wine and Spirits Education Trust Diploma, teaches WSET courses in Napa Valley and San Francisco and is as an adjunct professor at Cabrillo College. She serves as a professional wine judge for several regional, national and international wine competitions.

Gemma Price

Writer

San Francisco, California

Gemma Z. Price left her native England more than ten years ago and has since lived in Japan, Australia and Vietnam, where she has covered luxury travel and lifestyle for titles such as Condé Nast Traveller, Travel + Leisure, Time, Delicious, Food & Travel, Business Traveller, DestinAsian and Centurion. Now living between Saigon and San Francisco, she continues to share stories from around the globe.

Thomas Riley

Owner/Editor

The Grape Belt

Alameda, California

Tom Riley is a freelance wine writer and educator. He has written most recently for the Bay Area News Group; Nosh (Berkeley); The Alcohol Professor, the online magazine of the New York International Beverage Competition; and the American Winery Guide. Prior to joining the world of wine, Tom taught high school literature and rhetoric, and freelanced for small magazines and as a literary editor. He holds a master's degree in literature from the University of Connecticut. Tom blogs at The Grape Belt (www.thegrapebelt.com) and lives in Alameda. He is very close to finishing the WSET Level IV (Diploma).

Treve Ring

National Managing Editor, Principal Critic

WineAlign

Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

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Treve Ring is a wine writer, editor and judge based on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada, but she spends much of her time travelling the globe to visit vineyards. After completing her Art History degree with Distinction from the University of Victoria and being exposed to the world of wine business at Christie's in London, she left the realm of art for the world of wine. She is the national managing editor of WineAlign, executive editor at Gismondi On Wine, BC editor for SIP Northwest Magazine and wine editor for Scout Magazine. She also contributes to Meininger's Wine Business International, MONTECRISTO Magazine and Cidercraft Magazine.

Emily Siegel

Freelance writer
New York, New York

Emily Siegel is new to wine writing. Prior to a career in journalism, she spent three years in digital advertising. Since leaving advertising one year ago, she has published in Food & Wine, Tasting Table, Maxim and more. She became a full time editor for Google's Zagat Guide in November of 2015.

Pat Thomson

Freelance Writer
Brooklyn, New York

Italian wine is my beat, and the village of Varinella (pop. 252) near Gavi my home when not in Brooklyn. Since 2002, my feature stories and photographs have appeared in Tastes of Italia, an Italian cooking magazine where I'm contributing writer. Additional venues include The World of Fine Wine, Decanter, Wine Enthusiast, and Gastronomica. Since 1999, I've also run wine tours in Italy, Spain, and Portugal through La Dolce Vita Wine Tours, a company I cofounded with my Italian husband.

Before moving into wine, I spent 10 years as editor in chief of a film magazine covering independent film production. I still have a foot in that world as East Coast correspondent for American Cinematographer.

Wendy van Diver

Editor-in-Chief
Touring & Tasting
Santa Barbara, California

Wendy van Diver is the editor in chief of Touring & Tasting, the nation's premier guide to wine country. In the past eight-plus years, she has successfully written and edited more than 6,000 pages of content related to wine, food, and wine country travel. As a writer, Wendy's goal is to encourage readers to visit wine countries across the United States and discover—not only the wines—but the beauty, fun, romance, and adventure every wine country has to offer.

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Bill Ward

Wine Writer
Star Tribune/Decant This!/Freelance
Hopkins, Minnesota

Bill Ward is a freelance wine, food, travel and lifestyle writer. His "Liquid Assets" column runs in the Minneapolis Star Tribune, and his work has appeared in the Wine Enthusiast, Sommelier Journal and Wines & Vines magazines and the Spanish Wine Lover and Wine-searcher websites, among others. He has a wine website, www.decant-this.com, with a blog and a travel-itinerary service. He won a James Beard Award in 2004 for a series on Italian regional cuisine. He lives in Hopkins, Minn., with his wife, Sandy.

Leslie Westbrook

Writer/Reporter
Summerland, California

Leslie A. Westbrook is a third-generation native Californian on the Sicilian side of her family. When not sipping wine, she writes for national and regional publications on travel, wine and food, design and people. She has traveled throughout the globe on assignment and has visited vineyards/ winemakers/tasting rooms from California to France to Argentina. In addition to magazine, newspaper and radio reporting, she works with international auction houses that sell fine art, antiques and yes, even wine. What most people don't know about Leslie is that she is a fairy godmother: her wings have served her well over the years on travel/ wine/ food writing assignments.

Bryce J. Wiatrak

Writer
Vinous
San Francisco, California

Bryce Wiatrak is the winner of the 2015 Vinous Young Wine Writer's Fellowship. Previously serving as Content & Social Media Manager for Bottlenotes, Bryce writes for a variety of publications including The Tasting Panel and 7x7 San Francisco. He is also a Certified Sommelier by the American Court of Master Sommeliers. Bryce holds a Bachelor's degree in American Studies from Yale University, where he began writing about wine for the Yale Daily News. In his other life, Bryce is an operatic baritone earning a Master's in Vocal Performance from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

Xania V. Woodman

Senior Editor | Dining, Beverage, Nightlife
WENDOH Media
Las Vegas, Nevada

Senior Editor of Vegas Seven Magazine, curating the Dining, Beverage and Nightlife sections. A beverage writer, full time as well as freelance, with a beat that ranges from spirits and cocktails to wine and beer. Cornell graduate; council member of the United States Bartenders' Guild's Las Vegas chapter.

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Liza B. Zimmerman

Principal

Liza the Wine Chick

San Francisco, California

I have been writing about wine and food for 20+ years in two languages for major US publications. I am a WSET Diploma graduate, a program I have taught, and have visited every major wine-producing country in the world. Shows such as the NRA in Chicago and Sonoma State's Wine Business Institute have been host to my classes and panels.