



The Symposium for Professional Wine Writers at Meadowood Napa Valley

SYMPOSIUM FOR PROFESSIONAL WINE WRITERS TRANSITIONS TO FULLY-FUNDED FELLOWSHIP MODEL

Nonprofit organization hires new executive director to lead administrative changes for 2016 program and beyond



September 10, 2015 - St. Helena, CA - [The Symposium for Professional Wine Writers at Meadowood Napa Valley](#) announced today a series of changes to elevate the nonprofit program's stature, while also making it more accessible to wine, wine-food and wine-travel writers. The 12th annual Symposium takes place February 16-19, 2016 in Napa Valley, one of the world's leading wine

regions.

The 2016 Symposium will offer 30 fellowships, which will be underwritten by Meadowood and the Napa Valley Vintners, the Symposium's other founding entity. Applicants will be selected based on their professional editorial status, the quality and originality of their work, and their influence in the world of wine writing. Wine, wine-food and wine-travel publications will also be invited to sponsor their own qualified staff writers, editors and contributors to participate as one of 20 additional Editor's Choice attendees.

"We're very proud of the program's evolution over the past decade," said Ann Marie Conover, president of the Symposium's board of directors and director of marketing & communications at Meadowood Napa Valley, one of the program's founding entities. "Every year the content and the faculty get better and better, and yet we know many writers simply don't have the financial means to participate. This new model will allow more qualified writers to attend."

The Symposium has also hired Julia Allenby of Oakland to serve as its new Executive Director. Allenby has ten years' experience in nonprofit administration and a degree in culinary arts. "I'm thrilled for the opportunity to help the Symposium further its goal to become the leading resource for the world's wine writing community," said Allenby. One of Allenby's responsibilities will be to lead the Symposium in building an endowment to grow and expand the fellowship program for the future.

Jim Gordon, who has been the Symposium's executive director since 2008, will transition to the role of Content Director, responsible for faculty recruitment and program content.

Registration for 2016 opens on September 21, 2015 and fellowship applications are due by November 1, 2015. For more information, visit WineWritersSymposium.org.

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About The Symposium for Professional Wine Writers

The Symposium for Professional Wine Writers, founded by Meadowood Napa Valley and the Napa Valley Vintners trade association and supported by The Culinary Institute of America, draws top wine book authors and editors, wine magazine writers and critics, newspaper wine columnists, bloggers and other editorial wine content creators to Napa Valley to speak, listen, debate, explore themes prevalent in contemporary wine writing and network with their peers for four days. A combination of lectures, panel discussions, group and individual writing sessions, wine tasting and fine dining make the Symposium an unmatched career enrichment opportunity for editorial wine, wine-food, and wine-travel writers. Learn more at WineWritersSymposium.org.

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