



November 15 – 17 | Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina | San Diego, CA
Agenda at a Glance

Wednesday, November 15

- 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. **WSET Level 1 Award in Sake** *(separate registration required)*
- 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. **Certified Cicerone Exam** *(separate registration required)*
- 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. **Discovering Italian Wine Workshop** *(separate registration required)*
- 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Rioja DOCa Master Certification** *(separate registration required)*
- 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **SommCon Registration Desk**
- *3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **The Margins of Pinot and Chardonnay - Where to Find the Hidden Gems (SEMINAR FULL)**
Will Costello, MS, Estates Ambassador, Bien Nacido and Solomon Hills Estates
***Please note: This session is included in the SommCon Full Conference Registration Fee only**

Thursday, November 16

- 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. **SommCon Registration Desk**
- 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. **Networking Coffee & Pastries**
- 8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. **An Overview of Oxidation/Reduction Chemistry in Wines**
Kerith Overstreet, MD, Bruliam Wines co-founder
- Beyond Bubbles: Exploring the Hidden Nooks and Crannies of Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore**
Alan Tardi, US Ambassador, Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore DOCG
- Credentials and Your Career**
Panel Discussion, Moderator: Geoff Labitzke, MW
- Wine List Panel & Workshop: How the Country's Best Wine Directors Run Their Programs**
Moderator: Randy Caparoso, Editor-at-Large, The SOMM Journal & Bottom Line Columnist, The Tasting Panel
- 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. **Hosted Tasting Break**
- 10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. **Wine and Music: Mysterious Resonances Explored**
Clark Smith, Winemaker and Author
- Champagne – A Blind Comparison**
Diego Meraviglia, President & Director Of Education, North American Sommelier Association
- Icons of Oregon**
Panel Discussion
- The Wonderful World of Washington State Wine**
Sean P. Sullivan, Contributing Editor, Wine Enthusiast
- Understanding And Comparing Recent Bordeaux Vintages 2010, 2012, and 2014**
Mary Gorman McAdams, MW
- 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. **Welcome Lunch** *featuring Champagne Taittinger Toast, lunch wines by Loire Valley Wines, and presentation of SommCon Somm of the Year 2017*



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2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Central Europe – Exploring Wines of Hungary, Romania, Croatia

Panel Discussion

Blind Taste with the Masters (MS)

Moderator: Joe Spellman, MS

Panelists: Eric Entrikin, MS, Gillian Ballance, MS, David Glancy, MS, Larry O'Brien, MS

A Global Look at Chardonnay “Terroirs and Winemaking Styles”

Geoff Labitzke, MW

Its Good To Be The King! Vino Nobile aka NOBILE!

Shawn Dore, DWS, Sommelier, WSET Certified Educator

Discover the Versatility of Moscato d’Asti

Geralyn Brostrom, Co-founder and Education Director at Italian Wine Central

Classic & Cool: Yarra Valley Up Close

Chris Tanghe MS

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Hosted Tasting Break

4:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

A Close Look at Agave & Terroir: The Wine of Mexico

Maurice DiMarino, Wine and Beverage Manager, Cohn Restaurant Group

The History of Pangaea to Pasteur

Wes Hagan, Winemaker and Brand Ambassador for J. Wilkes Wines

Competing in Sommelier Competitions

Panel Discussion, Moderator: Geoff Labitzke, MW

Mastering the Language of Languedoc

Michael Meagher, MS

A Comprehensive Exploration of Premium Sake

Brian Lynch, Certified Sake Professional

The Rise Of The California Underdog – An In-Depth Exploration of Southern California Wine Country

Lindsay Pomeroy, CWE, WSET Diploma | Owner and Chief Wine Educator, Wine Smarties

Friday, November 17

7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

SommCon Registration Desk

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Networking Coffee & Pastries

8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Biodynamics and Natural Wines of Spain

Gretchen Thomas, Wine & Spirits Director for Barteca Restaurant Group

Building Your Personal Brand

Frans van der Lee, Co-founder and President/COO



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8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

A Succinct Tour of Iconic Wine From The Rhône Valley and Provence

Amy Christine, MW

How the Changing Environment Is Shaping a New Wine Industry

Molly Clemens, PhD student of Ecology in the Joint Doctoral Program with SDSU and UC Davis

Expanding the 4 P's of Wine Marketing to the 4 E's of the Experience Economy

Carl Winston, Director, L. Robert Payne School of Hospitality & Tourism at SDSU

History of Germany's VDP

Damon Goldstein and Molly Brooks

10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Hosted Tasting Break

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

New Classics of Paso Robles

Joe Spellman, MS

The Value of Single-Blind Tasting in Identifying Grape Variety and Region

Eric Entrikin, MS

Finding Closure: Positive Effects of Natural Cork on Aging, Flavor, Characteristics, Sustainability

Panel Discussion

Nebbiolo – From Roero to Barolo and More

Tom Hyland, Freelance writer and photographer

Discover the Wines of Beaujolais

Stacey Gibson, Advanced Sommelier

Fashioned In The Clay

Lisa Granik, MW

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Networking Lunch

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Blind Taste with the Masters (MW)

Moderator: Joe Spellman, MS

Panelists: Geoff Labitzke, MW, Mary Gorman McAdams, MW, Amy Christine, MW, Lisa Granik, MW

Mountain Wines of California

David Glancy, MS, Founder, San Francisco Wine School

Discovering Wines of Lake County

Robert Bath, MS

Gamay: Connecting Oregon and Beaujolais

Stacey Gibson, Advanced Sommelier

The Ultra-Coastal Qualities of SLO Wine Country

Matt Kettman, Wine Enthusiast Magazine



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Friday, November 17

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Rias Baixas Alabrino: A World Class White Wine

Jill Zimorski, Advanced Sommelier

3:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Trade Tasting at SommCon

Trade Only: 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Trade and Wine Enthusiasts – 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 18

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

San Diego Bay Wine + Food Festival Grand Tasting (additional ticket purchase required)

Embarcadero Park North

www.sandiegowineclassic.com