



ANDY MCINTYRE

OWNER & EDUCATOR

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capstone
CALIFORNIA

AUSTRALIA

MELBOURNE WINE SCHOOL

A small Melbourne based wine school offering WSET and other worldwide certifications, and tastings for enthusiasts and professionals alike.

BIOGRAPHY

Andy has over 15 years' experience working in the wine industry. His passion for wine really ignited when working for Corney & Barrow in London, after attending an in-house wine course. From there he moved to one of the longest standing wine companies on the high street - Oddbins - and completed WSET Levels 2 and 3. After many years at Oddbins he found a home at a small fine wine merchant called Philglas & Swiggot. It was there he worked with fellow Australian & Master of Wine - Justin Knock MW, and gained the highly valued WSET Diploma. Now back in Melbourne, Andy is currently a student on the Master of Wine program, and continues to work in the wine trade sharing his passion and love of wine with those keen to learn more.



DEVIN RIGAUX

WINE EDUCATOR

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capstone
CALIFORNIA

CANADA

FINE VINTAGE

Founded in 1995, Fine Vintage offers wine instruction across North America, including WSET courses, proprietary content, immersive trips.

BIOGRAPHY

Devin began her professional wine journey in 2014, although she has been interested in wine since her first trips to Northern California while in university. Since then, she has continued to pursue her education and is currently a stage two Master of Wine student, which brings her to Napa annually. Her educational aspirations are her driving force, and sharing this knowledge with others is one of her top priorities. She is passionate about sustainability in the wine world, the details of the winemaking process, and discovering lesser known regions, varieties and producers, while appreciating the history and importance of classics. Devin's career has developed her expertise in many aspects of the wine world, from on premise, to retail, sales, and education. Her most current project is to revitalize a small vineyard planted to hybrid varieties in New Brunswick, where she is originally from.



ELSA MACDONALD

MASTER OF WINE

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capstone
CALIFORNIA

CANADA

BIOGRAPHY

A wine trip to France in 2003 was the catalyst for Elsa's career shift from management consulting in financial services and telecom into the wine trade. She joined Vincor Canada as a territory manager in downtown Toronto and performed progressively more senior roles in sales, marketing and ultimately became their Director of Wine Education. Always studying and traveling to expand her knowledge and experience, in 2018 Elsa achieved the highest standard of wine credential when she became a Master of Wine. She is one of 420 MW's worldwide. Elsa delivers wine education to sommeliers, WSET diploma students and trade professionals through several wine schools in Canada. She is also an international wine judge and consultant.

Elsa has traveled extensively to wine regions in France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand, Chile, Argentina, USA and of course across Canada. Her passion is in understanding the unique expressions of this truly international drink and in helping people appreciate its pleasures.



HUGO DUCHESNE

WINE DIRECTOR

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capstone
CALIFORNIA

CANADA

GRUPE HOOGAN ET BEAUFORT

Hoogan et Beaufort is a restaurant serving contemporary cuisine based on fresh seasonal produce. The wine program includes a wine list with hundreds of references, two food and wine pairings, some twenty wines by the glass and a series of wines offered at the Coravin. The Annette Bar à Vin offers simple, local cuisine and an equally ambitious wine program

BIOGRAPHY

I've been sommelier manager of the Hoogan et Beaufort group, which includes the Annette Bar à Vin and the Hoogan et Beaufort restaurant, since October 2022. Previously, I was sommelier director for the restaurant Coureur des Bois (Grand Award of Excellence since 2018) from 2016 to 2022. From 2014 to 2021, I taught sommellerie at the ITHQ. I believe that a passion for wine must be nourished by openness and knowledge if it is not to run out of steam. California wines are on the tables of Canadian restaurants, and I see this wine trip as an opportunity to make them better known to customers.



XIAO WANG

DIRECTOR & WINE EDUCATOR

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capstone
CALIFORNIA

CHINA

GRAPEA & CO.

Founded in 2017 by China's first and only Master Sommelier, Mr. Yang Lu, Grapea & Co. is a leading wine education and consulting company based in Shanghai, with branches across China and in Bordeaux. We work with wine regions, brands, hotel and luxury groups, offering services in training, consultation, promotion, and social events. Our mission is to deliver unforgettable wine experiences for professionals, consumers, and brands. We focus on professional alcohol training, expert consulting, innovative wine promotion, and building a new lifestyle through wine.

BIOGRAPHY

I have been working in the wine industry since 2015, after achieving my master's degree in Texas, US. Then I worked in NYC as a wine consultant for almost a year before returning to China. I tried a lot of California wines during this period. After that, I was a wine buyer for a well-known e-commerce company and completed my Level 4 studies in 2018.

Currently, I work as the Director of Education at Grapea&Co., and I'm responsible for all WSET courses (level 1 to level 4 in wine, as well as spirits), including improving educational quality, creating instructional materials, selecting wines for courses, and training educators, among other duties. I have also been a key speaker at events such as ProWine and the California Wine Roadshow. I am really looking forward to seeing the new trends of California wines since my last visit in 2014.



TOM MURRAY WILLIS

CAPSTONE EDUCATOR

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capstone
CALIFORNIA

FINLAND

THE FINNISH SOMMELIERS ASSOCIATION WINE SCHOOL

The Finnish Sommelier Association is a national restaurant industry association that organises and supports the education of Finnish sommeliers and wine professionals and promotes responsible drinking, hospitality and wine culture in Finland.

BIOGRAPHY

I founded the Thirsty Bear wine agency in Helsinki in 2015. The agency has a focus on new world wine and started with small to medium sized family owned vineyards in Australia and New Zealand. The portfolio was expanded to cover the US in 2021 and now includes many premium Californian vineyards. I have been interested in California since living there during my childhood and am now happy to be working with a lot of great wine producers from this amazing state.



SYLVAIN REMOVILLE

CO-FOUNDER, WINE EDUCATOR

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CALIFORNIA

FRANCE

ACADÉMIE DES VINS ET SPIRITUEUX

The Académie is an educational organization dedicated in the knowledge of wines, spirits, sakés and more The Academy of Wines and Spirits brings together wine professionals from various backgrounds: WSET certified trainers, Master of Wine, journalists, consultants, etc. All of them benefit from a long and solid knowledge of the world of wine. Their participation in all sectors of the wine and spirit industry is the guarantee of a global vision, which is essential to understand the world of wine today.

BIOGRAPHY

32 years of experience in wine, including 23 years in export with companies like Château Vignelaure, Robert Skalli and E&J Gallo. Wine merchant, great connoisseur of the world's vineyards, expert in spirits, he is an international judge, former MW student and trainer since the 2000s. He manages the Academy des Vins et Spiritueux along side with 2 fine wine store called "apogé" in Paris and a wine consulting company.



LAWRENCE CHAN

WINE EDUCATOR

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capstone
CALIFORNIA

HONG KONG

CORVINO WINE SCHOOL

Corvino Wine School, founded in 2021 by award-winning wine and sake educator Corinne Mui, is a boutique wine school dedicated to delivering professional wine education. Corinne, a respected International Judge in numerous wine and sake competitions around the world, brings her vast expertise and passion to the school. At Corvino Wine School, we offer a range of courses and tastings designed for both beginners and seasoned enthusiasts. Our team of knowledgeable and engaging educators is committed to providing high-quality education in a fun, interactive environment. With a focus on maintaining the highest educational standards, we ensure each experience is enriching, informative, and enjoyable.

BIOGRAPHY

Lawrence Chan is an experienced Wine Educator at Corvino Wine School in Hong Kong. With nearly ten years of teaching experience and a background in wine consulting and buying, Lawrence combines expertise with passion. Fluent in English, Mandarin, and Cantonese, he delivers WSET courses (Levels 1-3 in Wines, Levels 1-2 in Spirits) across Hong Kong and China. He is a certified WSET Level 3 educator, Whisky Ambassador, and Barossa Master, qualified to teach specialized courses such as the Barossa Wine School, Rioja Wine Education, and tailored client tasting programs. Holding a WSET Level 4 Diploma and certifications from esteemed institutions like the Wine Australia and Wines of Chile Academy, Lawrence is deeply committed to wine education. His travels to world-renowned wine regions, including Champagne, Alsace, and Barossa, enhance his teaching, allowing him to share first-hand experiences and insights with his students.



ROY TSE

WSET NOMINATED EDUCATOR

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capstone
CALIFORNIA

HONG KONG

ASIA WINE SERVICE & EDUCATION CENTER (AWSEC)

AWSEC is the most long-established and well-known wine school in Hong Kong. This year 2024 is the 30th Anniversary. As playing a leading role in Hong Kong, our school provides range of wine courses, including the core WSET (all problems and all levels), WSG, SSI, Whisky Ambassador and of course Capstone California, and also other aroma training short courses that are suitable for all kinds and levels of students to register. It is estimated over 5,000 students attending all courses of AWSEC every year and probably it is a raising trend in the future.

BIOGRAPHY

After graduating from DipWSET, I was appointed as an educator of AWSEC. I've involved in teaching range of courses in the school, including WSET in Wine Level 1 to 3, WSG, SSI (Sake Service Institute), Whisky Ambassador. Besides, I host many wine tasting events with many varied topics and participate wine judging activities in Hong Kong. As a lover of California wine, I've completed Level One and Two Capstone California programs and recently I led a premium California tasting at one of the famous wine store in Hong Kong to celebrating California Wine Month.



DENMAN CHAN

WINE EDUCATOR

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capstone
CALIFORNIA

HONG KONG, CHINA

SOMMELIER WINE & SAKE EDUCATION CENTRE

Sommelier Education Centre is formed by passionate wine professionals to provide top-notch wine and sake education in Hong Kong. With great enthusiasm, we strive to offer knowledgeable events and courses to our members and students. We also provide our private and corporate clients with unique, stylish and extraordinary wine & dine experience. We offer full range of professional wine services, all-in-one event management solutions and training programs.

BIOGRAPHY

Denman, a native of Hong Kong, studied business at one of Asia's top business schools. He received training to become a business executive at a leading global Fast-Moving-Consumer-Goods company, where he quickly progressed as the youngest Senior Director in the region. At the pinnacle of his career, Denman made a bold decision to leave his corporate role and pursue his true passion in the wine industry. He is now a seasoned Wine Educator and Wine Judge with extensive teaching and judging experience. Denman is a Certified WSET Wine Educator and holds the WSET Level 4 Diploma in Wines & Spirits, as well as certifications like French Wine Scholar, Italian Wine Scholar, and Spanish Wine Scholar. Additionally, he is currently pursuing the Master of Wine qualification. With great interest in California Wine, he has completed Capstone California Wine Certification Level 3 and working towards the Californian Wine Educator qualification.



KRITY MALHOTRA

LEAD EDUCATOR

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capstone
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INDIA

TULLEEHO PORTALS PVT. LTD.

Tulleeho is a provider of beverage education, training and consulting services in India, addressing the hospitality industry, the end consumer and the hospitality student. Our clients include multi-national and Indian beverage companies, hotel and restaurant chains and stand alone bars and restaurants.

BIOGRAPHY

I have been part of the wine industry for more than 10 years and a seasoned sommelier WSET Level 3 and CMS Certified Sommelier. Have been educating students around wines and other alco bev for last 10years and have consulted to many Hotels and restaurants after working for Accor group of Hotels for more than 5 years.



PHILIP DUNNE

FOUNDER & HEAD OF EDUCATION

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capstone
CALIFORNIA

IRELAND

VINSPIRE WINE AND SPIRIT ACADEMY

Vinspire Wine and Spirit Academy was founded by award winning Irish sommelier Philip Dunne in 2022. Specialising in WSET courses (up to Level 3 in both wine and spirits WSET courses), the target market for these courses has and continues to be focused towards the hospitality and retail trade, and also drinks enthusiasts across Ireland. Each course are limited to 12 places always to ensure comfort and engagement with students and take place in specialised venues across in our main classroom in Dublin, and across the country. Since our launch in 2022, we have taught over 1,500 students.

BIOGRAPHY

Beginning his hospitality career early in life, Founder and Head of Education at Vinspire Wine and Spirit Academy Philip Dunne is one of Ireland's most awarded sommelier and wine & spirit experts in the luxury hospitality sector in Ireland. Previously Head Sommelier in Ashford Castle in Mayo, Head Sommelier of The Westbury in Dublin, & currently the Global Group Sommelier of The Doyle Collection, Philip has a vast level of experience in wine list design, and expert result-driven wine and spirit education. Philip has been twice awarded Ireland's 'Sommelier of the Year' by the Sunday Business Post (2018 & 2019), and also in 2018 became an accredited educator for WSET (Wine Spirit Education Trust). In June 2023, Philip was the winner of the Champagne Academy, a competition between 16 of the UK and Ireland's leading wine professionals in a series of tasting and written exams in Champagne. Since becoming a WSET Educator, Philip has educated and delivered these wine and spirit qualifications to over 3,000 student



AIKO TSUJIMOTO

WINE EDUCATOR

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capstone
CALIFORNIA

JAPAN

LECOLE DU VIN

L'École du Vin, with a 16-year history, offers a variety of wine and lifestyle courses tailored for both beginners and advanced learners. The school provides classes on wine, spirits, cuisine, and cheese pairings. Three years ago, it established WSET courses, which are now renowned for their high pass rates.

BIOGRAPHY

With over 9 years of experience in the wine industry, I work as both a wine buyer and educator. In my role as a wine buyer, I am responsible for selecting and promoting exceptional wines from renowned regions, including Bordeaux, Chablis, Spain, Chile, Australia, and New Zealand. In addition to my buying role, I have been a wine educator for the past 3 years, specializing in teaching the WSET Level 3 course. My educational approach is enriched by my practical experience, allowing me to offer seminars that reflect real-world scenarios and current industry trends. I hold a WSET Level 4 Diploma and am currently studying to become a Certified California Wine Professional.



KANA YAMAMOTO

LEAD EDUCATOR OF CWI JAPAN

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capstone
CALIFORNIA

JAPAN

G.G.WINE / ACADEMIE DU VIN

G.G.Wine is a company provide the service of wine seminar, wine translator and wine events.

BIOGRAPHY

A freelance wine educator, Kana Yamamoto is Japan's foremost expert on California wines. She is the Japanese lead educator of Capstone California, as well as an official (and the first) educator Coach of Napa Valley Vintners in Japan. For 12 years, she has been teaching at Asia's largest wine school, l'Académie du Vin Tokyo. As a consultant, she trains many professionals (wine importers, sommeliers, retailers, and wholesalers) on the practical aspects of how to sell California wines. Her ability to do this was developed through her many years of experience in wine sales as a wine buyer and manager in both California and Japan. She is also a wine interpreter. she runs her own wine boutique & café called île de colline, which is selected Star Wine List. She also serves as a judge for the final of the All-Japan Sommelier Concours organized by the Japan Sommelier Association.



ADRIANA ZAZUETA COUSTÉ

FOUNDER & EDUCATOR

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capstone
CALIFORNIA

MEXICO

BIOGRAPHY

When living in San Francisco, CA in 2008, I decided to start my professional wine career studies with David Glancy, MS, obtaining the Certified Sommelier grade from the CMS. In that time my appreciation for the Californian wines began to build up. By 2020, I set off the project to open a WSET APP in Mexico City, finishing the DipWSET program, as well as the Certified Educator WSET Level 3. I have obtained other international certifications: WSET Level 1 in Sake, Level 2 in Spirits, and the French Wine Scholar. As Exploravid, we also collaborate with the CMS to offer their courses in Mexico. Currently I finished Capstone Advanced Level, and I'm eager to communicate and teach Capstone courses, as I believe that through education, more people can value the work and achievements that California wine producers have gained in the global wine industry.



WILTON ROMERO

SOMMELIER/ EDUCATOR

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CALIFORNIA

MEXICO

DR WEIN / LE NEZ

Dr.Wein/Le Nez is a wine store/wine bar/wine education space where clients can enjoy, buy and learn about wine and take different wine certifications at this space.

BIOGRAPHY

Wilton is known for creating on-point and personalized wine proposals for restaurants like Quintonil, one of the world's 50 best restaurants by S. Pellegrino. His enthusiasm for the wine world led him to open his own Wine Bar/ Wine Store / Wine Education Space called "Le Nez" where he shares his passion and knowledge with the public and clients. Alas, entering the digital industry, he created an online wine store, "Dr. Wein" with a more approachable content for customers who love wine but don't know how to choose and buy it. His integral vision results in an optimal creation of complex activities where classic meets contemporary in a balanced, different, special way. His professional career includes certifications like "Certified Sommelier by the Court of Master Sommeliers", Certified Sommelier by the Mexican Sommelier Association and Capstone Educator for California Wines.



JANE SKILTON

FOUNDER & LEAD EDUCATOR

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capstone
CALIFORNIA

NEW ZEALAND

NZ SCHOOL OF WINES AND SPIRITS

The New Zealand School of Wines and Spirits (NZSWS) was established in 2006. It is NZ's leading provider of WSET courses and the only WSET-approved school to be owned and operated by a Master of Wine. NZSWS has highly qualified tutors and all its courses are delivered by either Masters of Wine or WSET Diploma Level 4 graduates. In the last 18 years NZSWS has taught winemakers, viticulturists, cellar door staff, marketers, restaurant owners, bar staff, sommeliers, winery owners and many enthusiastic consumers.

BIOGRAPHY

Originally from London I passed my Master of Wine exams in 1993. I moved to New Zealand in 2000 and I've spent the last 20-odd years immersing myself in its wines. I spend most of my time running my own wine school, which delivers WSET courses, Level 1 - Level 4 Diploma to the trade. I am the NZ contributor to Inside Burgundy, judge wine competitions both at home and overseas and a regular panelist/presenter at wine conferences. Californian wines are under-represented in NZ. I'm hoping this visit will increase my knowledge of the wines so I am able to deliver more effective education courses.



LUCAS STĘPIŃSKI

WINE EDUCATOR

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capstone
CALIFORNIA

POLAND

MIELZYNSKI WINE & SPIRITS / ADAM PAWLOWSKI MS WINE ACADEMY

Leading wine & spirit distributor/Leading
wine school

BIOGRAPHY

Experienced Wine Specialist, Wine
Educator with WSET Diploma recognition
and Certified Sommelier CMS with
demonstrated history of working in the
hospitality industry and wine trade.



SEAN OU

CO-FOUNDER | HEAD OF EDUCATION

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capstone
CALIFORNIA

SINGAPORE

THE BEVERAGE CLIQUE ACADEMY

The Beverage Clique, established in Singapore in 2016, is pleased to have expanded its operation to Malaysia and Vietnam. As a pioneering force in consultancy and training services for wines, sake, and spirits, we offer the most extensive selection of courses in Southeast Asia. Evolving and elevating our standards, we are now recognized as The Beverage Clique Academy (TBCA).

BIOGRAPHY

He served the highly acclaimed Singapore Airlines as a Sommelier and Trainer for 11 years before clipping his wings. His long aspiration to become a Master of Wine has led him down the path of achieving the elusive WSET Level 4 Diploma. In addition to being a Wine Communicator, his repertoire also extends to being a Sake Specialist and Spirits Evangelist, partaking in international judging duties. His past professional experience also spans across serving as Head of Wine for Southeast Asia under the SARMENT Group and currently he sits as the Head of Education for the BEVERAGE CLIQUE ACADEMY.



PATRICK CHEN

FOUNDER

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capstone
CALIFORNIA

TAIWAN

ACE AWARDS TAIWAN

ACE Awards Taiwan, established in 2021, is a unique wine competition featuring an all-female judging panel. Emphasizing blind tastings, the competition selects wines that pair seamlessly with everyday Taiwanese cuisine. ACE Awards Taiwan offers wine education programs. These professional courses are designed to be accessible to the general public.

BIOGRAPHY

Certification of Winemaking Certificate Program, UC Davis CPE, WSET Diploma in Wines and Spirits Certified, WSET Certified Educator and Assessor, Certificate Instructor of Capstone Certificate Program, Certificate Instructor of USA Cheese Specialist Certification Program, Specialist Educator of Barossa Wine School, Accredited Tutor of École du Vin de Bordeaux, Ambassador of Consejo Regulador de la Denominación de Origen Rioja



KATERYNA YUSHCHENKO

FOUNDER & NOMINATED EDUCATOR

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capstone
CALIFORNIA

UKRAINE

UKRAINIAN WINE & SPIRIT SCHOOL

Founded in 2014, we are Ukraine's first and only WSET Approved Programme Provider. We prepare sommeliers, winemakers, traders, retailers, wine bloggers, and enthusiasts. We offer WSET Level 1, 2, and 3 in Wines, as well as WSET Level 1 and 2 in Spirits. We are conveniently located in downtown Kyiv, making us easily accessible to students and industry professionals. We have trained over 500 alumni, fostering a confident wine consumption and expertise culture. Our alumni come from more than 15 countries.

BIOGRAPHY

As a seasoned wine professional, I've significantly impacted the Ukrainian wine market. From 2012 to 2022, I was a Wine Buyer for In Vino Ltd., a leading Ukrainian import and retail company, gaining deep insights into consumer preferences and market dynamics. Since 2014, I've directed the Ukrainian Wine & Spirit School, training the next generation of wine experts. My expertise extends internationally, judging at prestigious competitions like the International Wine Challenge in London, Berliner Wein Trophy, and AWC Vienna. This experience has broadened my perspective on global wine quality and trends. While well-versed in European wines, I'm eager to explore California's wine scene. The diverse terroirs, innovative techniques, and balance of tradition and modernity in California intrigue me. I believe introducing these wines to the Ukrainian market could open new import opportunities and enrich our wine culture, bridging Old World traditions with New World innovations.



LINDSAY TRIVERS

FOUNDER

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capstone
CALIFORNIA

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

THE TASTING CLASS

The Tasting Class is the UAE's pioneer in entertaining and educational beverage experiences. They offer a range of tasting events, from home gatherings to public and corporate functions. As the first to introduce WSET qualifications to both consumers and the trade in the UAE, The Tasting Class also provides proprietary courses and has facilitated Wine Scholar Guild programs in the UAE. In addition to their branded programs, they have also designed custom training programs for hotel groups, restaurant chains, retail outlets, and hospitality schools. Their expertise spans wine, whisky, beer, gin, and cocktails.

BIOGRAPHY

Lindsay Trivers is a recognized expert in wine and spirits education, beverage consultancy, and event management with over 20 years of global experience. She began her career in Canada and later worked across New Zealand, Australia, Europe, and Dubai. After roles in wineries, for Decanter magazine and as a sommelier, Lindsay founded The Tasting Class in 2015. The company delivers engaging "edutainment" experiences, from beverage tastings to high-profile brand activations. In 2017, she introduced WSET qualifications to the UAE, certifying over 2,500 individuals. Lindsay's work extends to consulting for hotel groups, restaurant chains and even Michelin-starred restaurants like Tresind Studio and Moonrise. Her influence has earned her recognition in Caterer Middle East's Power 50 and as a top female figure in the region's F&B industry.



LAURA KENT

FOUNDER AND LEAD EDUCATOR

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CALIFORNIA

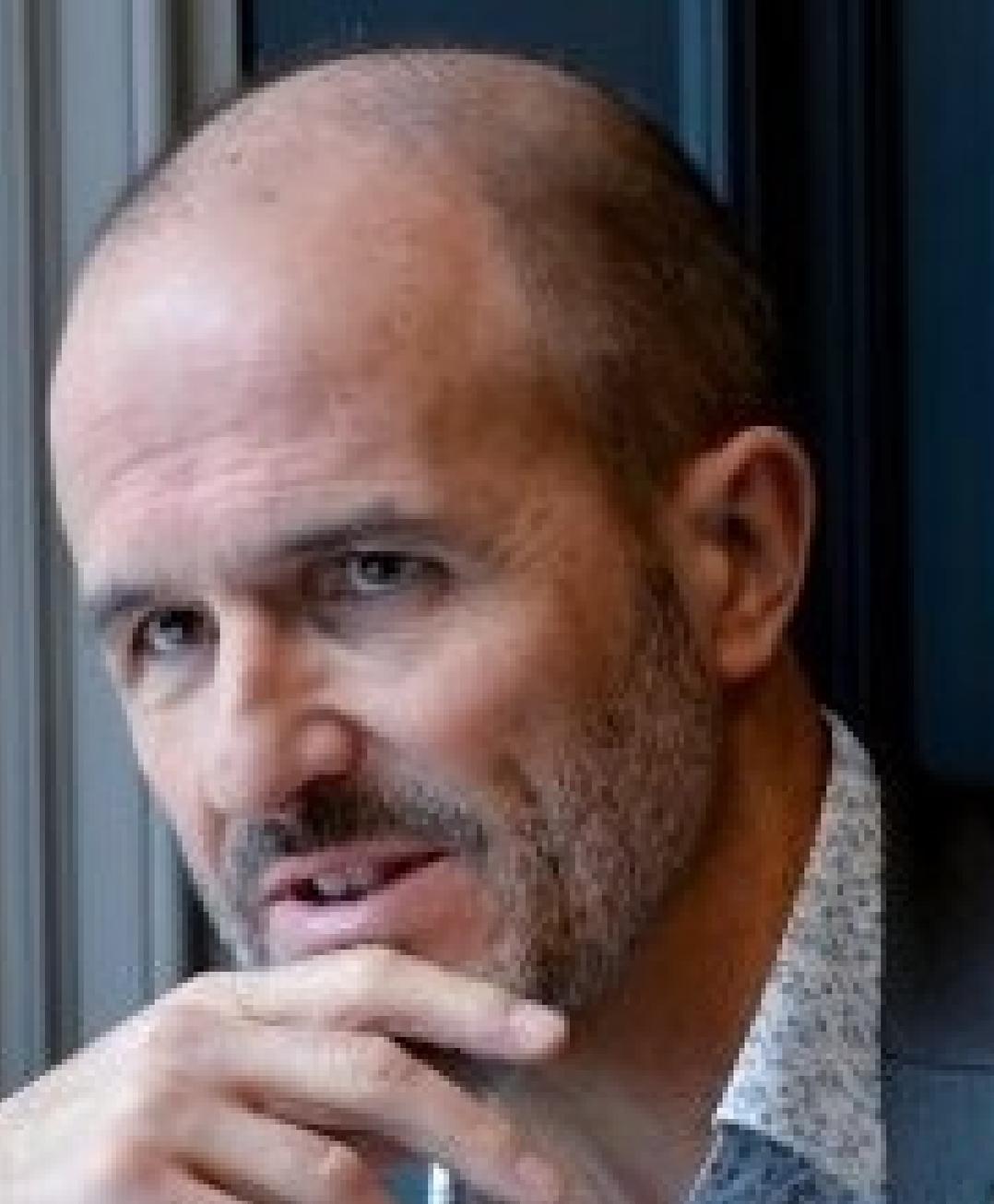
UNITED KINGDOM

YORKSHIRE WINE SCHOOL

One of the largest and oldest providers of wine education in the North of England. As well as bespoke consumer based courses we offer WSET L1-3 and WSG France, Italy and Spain. Recently I have started developing regional accredited programmes in conjunction with regulatory or promotional bodies e.g BVIB Bourgogne and Rioja Consejo. I also personally teach WSET and WSG programme for other schools including one in Spain and one in Brazil where I teach WSET L4.

BIOGRAPHY

I started working with food and drink as a student, like many people I had part time jobs in restaurants and bars. From there I joined Oddbins Wine Merchant, in my 5 years with this company I completed my WSET L2, 3 and 4. 13 years ago I set up Yorkshire Wine School, initially I focussed on providing WSET courses to the trade, but rapidly I diversified to offering a range of both accredited and non-accredited courses for both enthusiasts and professionals. I was nominated as WSET's global educator of the year in 2018 because of my work teaching courses abroad in both Spain and Brazil.



GRAHAM COX

GENERAL MANAGER & TUTOR

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capstone
CALIFORNIA

UNITED KINGDOM

WEST LONDON WINE SCHOOL

Founded in 2009 by Jimmy Smith, the school provides a broad spectrum of consumer and professional courses including introducing Capstone in 2023. We excel at WSET and Wine Scholar Guild courses but are looking to broaden our scope much wider, adding the Rioja Academy Diploma this year to Levels 1 & 2 Capstone (currently – now with me leading on ambitious expansion plans). Ideally we would like to reduce our overall percentage of WSET courses to other professional courses and expanding Capstone is part of that initiative.

BIOGRAPHY

Starting in 1991 at Majestic Wine selling retail (Store Manager), through Diageo/Percy Fox in 1996 (agency sales inc Blossom Hill), Berkmann from 2001 (National Accounts representing Beringer – trip with Waitrose to St Helena 2003) and WSET (2010-2020: UK Bus Dev Director, strategically growing delivery of providers every year), I am now General Manager at West London Wine School (from Feb 2021). I manage all day-to-day aspects of the school and teach WSET and Wine Scholar Guild sessions alongside consumer tastings across the whole wine world. My particular favourites in California include: all Pinot Noir, Syrah, cooler region Chardonnay, Zinfandel and sparkling wines. I get excited by pioneering producers who are showcasing Italian varieties: Sangiovese, Barbera, Nebbiolo. While not a big Merlot fan, one of the best wines I ever tasted was Beringer Howell Mountain Merlot 1993.



CANADA

CAPSTONE TOUR LEADER

BIOGRAPHY

Danielle has years of expertise in national wine marketing and winery strategic planning and development. Her breadth of experience covers National wine brands from entry level to high end luxury, both in the domestic and imports categories. As the trade representative for California wines in Canada she leverages this expertise to grow the love for wines from California in this market.s to help them realize their full potential in the Canadian market.

DANIELLE GIROUX

DIRECTOR

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capstone
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JAPAN

CAPSTONE TOUR LEADER

BIOGRAPHY

Madoka is a CWI's Joint Regional Director who is responsible for Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand markets. With a California experience early in her career, she is widely known in the Japanese wine trade and understands firsthand what it means to run wine businesses from her own business, The Opener Co., Ltd.

MADOKA OGIYA

JOINT REGIONAL DIRECTOR

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CAPSTONE & SYSTEMS SPECIALIST

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capstone
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BARBADOS

CAPSTONE TOUR LEADER

BIOGRAPHY

I have an educational background in Communications, IT and Design. I started out my career as a freelancer offering digital marketing services, working with clients from a variety of industries, including restaurants, real estate, photography and more. In 2014, I joined Campari's marketing team, which sparked my interest in the beverage alcohol industry. This led to a role with California Wines in Canada, where I helped support the company's marketing efforts. After four years, I moved to Barbados and opened a taco & tequila bar - a venture that allowed me to connect my love for food, drinks, and hospitality. Now, I'm part of the California Wines Global team, where I help lead the Capstone California program and assist with improving company systems to increase efficiency.