

# ATLANTIC SEABOARD WINE ASSOCIATION®

## 2019 WINE COMPETITION JUDGES

**Tom Bannwart** is the National Food and Beverage Director for Billy Casper Golf. He is a graduate from Virginia Tech with a degree in Hospitality & Tourism, and has directed Food and Beverage operations at Walt Disney World, The Peabody Hotel, and the Ocean Reef Club. He has also held General Manager positions at high end private country clubs over his 23-year career. Tom is passionate about promoting East Coast wines and wineries, and this year marks his 8th time as a ASWA Wine Competition judge. Tom is also a Certified Sommelier by The Court of Master Sommeliers. Tom resides in Daleville, VA with his wife and two children.

**Melissa Bartlett** has a passion for wine, which led her to seek to a career at Virginia's favorite winery, Pearmund Cellars. She worked as one of the winery managers and as the winery sommelier. She is a long-term member of the AWS and served for three years as Chapter Chair for the John Marshall chapter in Virginia. Melissa is a Certified Judge through the AWS Wine Judge Certification Program and a Certified Sommelier through the International Wine Guild. Melissa is a free-lance wine consultant and educator.

**JoAnn DeGaglia** is a Certified Specialist of Wine and a member of the Society of Wine Educators as well as a Certified Advanced Sommelier earning both an American and Italian Wine Specialist Degree from the North American Sommelier Assn with honors. She is a popular Wine Educator and Associate Instructor at the Westchester Wine School in New York and the North American Sommelier Association in Los Angeles. Earning her Wine Judge Certification from the American Wine Society she has judged at numerous competitions including the Finger Lakes International, Indy International, Texas Lone Star, The Big E among others. She works part time at two of the Hudson Valleys great wine destinations, Brotherhood, Americas Oldest Winery and the Wine Spectators award winning Glenmere Mansion in Chester New York. She is a self-proclaimed wine disciple who loves the people, the places and the wines of the world.

**Jane Duralia** has been a member of the American Wine Society (AWS) since 1992, gradually learning about the many grape varieties. She became fascinated with wine structure variability and how various wine making techniques and practices affect the various result in a specific varietal characteristic and how it presents in the bottle. Becoming more involved with AWS opened educational doors and she was thirsty for wine knowledge from all parts of the world. Jane passed the introductory Sommelier course and

then followed up with the three year AWS certified Judge course, and is now a Certified Wine Judge. After this she was hooked; knowing how to evaluate wines hence appreciating them even more. Jane enjoys judging an average of 10 -14 competitions annually around the country; Tasters' Guild International, INDY International, Atlantic Seaboard, New York State, Fair, NC State Fair, Wines of the South, and Mid-Atlantic Region Competition to name a few.

Travelling extensively, arranging tasting and educational opportunities wherever we visited, opened her wine horizons and enhanced her abilities to pair food and wine. The uniqueness of dining as you travel abroad creates an appreciation for wine and food pairing and a hunger for more knowledge. Jane's travels include: Italy, Germany, Austria, Spain, Portugal, Greece, South Africa, Croatia, France, and Hungary. Traveling to Canada (Niagara on the Peninsula, Cowichan Valley, Vancouver Island)) Washington State (Yakima Valley, Seattle), Oregon (Umpqua and Willamette Valley, and Hood River), California (from Amador County down through Temecula and tasting rooms all along the way), New York – Finger Lakes, Virginia (Mid Northern), North Carolina (Yakin Valley and beyond) and the Northern Georgia Mountains.

**Rege Duralia** became intrigued with wine shortly after joining the American Wine Society (AWS) in 1992. That association opened a door to amateur winemaking and enrolling in Introduction to Winemaking, UC-Davis, a one semester long distance learning course. He joined the Tasters Guild in 2002. Visits to wine growing regions of the world - California, Oregon, Washington, North Carolina, Virginia, New York Finger Lakes, Ohio, Michigan, Germany, Austria, Italy, Southern France, Hungary, Croatia, Canada, South Africa, Spain, Portugal and Australia expanded his horizon of wine. These visits enabled him to understand different grape growing and wine making methods as well as to learn firsthand about wine varietal characteristics and stylistic differences influenced by terroir and different winemaking techniques in the various growing regions. Rege became a Certified Wine Judge in 2007 by successfully completing a three year course offered by the American Wine Society and was recertified in 2012.

His judging career began in 2002 on Hilton Head Island for the Annual Wine Festival Judging. Invitations to judge have come from the AWS Commercial and Amateur competition, the Tasters Guild Consumer Judging and International Wine Judging, the South Carolina State Fair, Atlantic Seaboard Competition, Mid-Atlantic Southeastern Wine Competition, Wines of the South, New York State Fair and North Carolina State Fair.

What makes wine interesting is that there are many variable factors influencing its production so that every opening of a bottle is a new adventure. It is the perfect beverage for a meal any time of the day.

**Linda King** is a Certified International Wine Judge, Winemaker, Winery Consultant, and Educator. Linda is a retired winemaker, last working for RagApple Lassie Vineyards in NC and has

been a winemaker for over 40 years. She is an internationally certified wine judge. Linda has a consulting business titled "Linda King Consulting, LLC" which specializes in winemaking, wine appreciation and wine education. A more than 30 year member of the American Wine Society, Linda has served on that Board and ran the AWS Wine Judge Certification Program, and was voted Most Outstanding National Member in 1993.

**Matthew Kristofik** is Past Chairman of the American Wine Society Commercial Wine Competition. Matt initially became interested in wine while stationed in Vallejo, California in the early 1960's. A longtime member of the American Wine Society, he chaired the Society's Commercial Wine Competition for twenty years as well as the Pennsylvania Winery Association Competition. He has consulted and chaired the implementation of several amateur wine competitions in the Pittsburgh area. Matt is actively involved in wine education as well as pairing wine with food. In recent years, he has coordinated wine tours to the Yadkin Valley of North Carolina to introduce that area to friends and fellow oenophiles. Matt served in the US Navy Submarine Service as a nuclear power plant operator. On completion of service, he graduated from St. Vincent College receiving a BS in Biology. He recently retired after over 30 years in neurosurgical research focusing on the treatment of brain tumors.

**Annemarie Morse** has a master's degree in enology from Cornell University. She has worked in the wine industry for over 10 years in various capacities; an assistant winemaker, wine educator, judge, sales and consulting. She is the initiator and chairperson for the Finger Lakes Chapter of the American Wine Society, (AWS). Annemarie has completed the Court of Master Sommeliers, Introductory Course and Exam and is an AWS certified wine judge, having judged in the following competitions: Finger Lakes International, Winemaker Magazine, New York State Fair, Big E Northeast Gold, Great Lakes and Eastern States as well as judging panels for Cornell University research. She is a passionate wine educator, instructing Cornell students, faculty, staff, Alumni and the public on wine education, appreciation, winemaking, blending, judging, business meal etiquette, cooking with wine and wine & food pairing. She is a published freelance wine and food writer.

**Ron Natalie** is a AWS Certified Wine Judge. He also holds WSET level 3 certification and is certified as an aficionado of wine by Robert Parker and Kevin Zraly. He is an AWS life member and chapter chair. Ron developed his love of wine after running a marathon in Bordeaux. He lives in North Carolina with his equally wine-crazed wife.

**Kevin Ostrowski** is a former high school chemistry, physics, and math teacher, and a retired QA/QC utility executive. He is the current Chapter Chair of the American Wine Society's (AWS) Beaver County, PA, chapter. An AWS certified wine judge, Kevin is also a Certified Specialist of Wine (CSW) with the Society of Wine Educators, holds a Wine and Spirits Education Trust (WSET) Level 3 Award in Wine and Spirits (with Merit), and has completed level 1 Sommelier from the Court of Master Sommeliers. He has enjoyed the privilege of judging many local and regional wine competitions. He will begin November 2019 as an Instructor for Wine Judge Certification Training Year 1 with the American Wine Society, and is an instructor of wine for Butler County Community College in Butler, PA. As a home wine maker, he has won several medals from both AWS and WineMaker magazine. Kevin Resides in Beaver, PA.

**Nancy Slick** is a long-term member of the American Wine Society and supporter of the organization. She is a graduate of the Wine Judge Training Program and a Certified Wine Judge. Nancy also teaches in the program and has developed a specialty in ciders and meads in addition to wine. Additionally, she has presented many educational sessions on all aspects of wine and has judged in many competitions, both amateur and commercial. Nancy has worked many years in wine retail and is currently working in food service and enhancing and promoting their wine program. She has judged in many competitions, both amateur and commercial. Nancy resides in Maryland.

**John Sporing** is building on his passion for wine, travel and teaching, John founded A Life Well Drunk. He regularly hosts bespoke wine tours around the world. Recently, these tours have included South Africa, Portugal, Argentina, as well as domestic destinations (California and Oregon). John holds certifications by the Society of Wine Educators (Certified Specialist of Wine), the Wine & Spirit Educational Trust (WSET Level 3), the Court of Master Sommeliers (Sommelier), the Sherry Regulatory Council (Certified Sherry Wine Specialist--Intermediate); and from the Center for Wine Origins (Wine Location Specialist).

**Jeff Stabins** is a Regional Vice President of the American Wine Society (AWS) and is an AWS Certified Wine Judge. He is a Wine and Spirits Education Trust (WSET) Diploma student. Jeff is also on the Board of Directors of the Raise a Glass Foundation and is Director of the Great American Amateur Wine Competition. Jeff has enjoyed judging in many wine competitions for 12 years.

**Pat Valas** is an American Wine Society Certified Judge as well as being an instructor for the AWS wine judge training program and, from 1995 to the present, has judged in many wine competitions, including the Finger Lakes International Wine Competition, American Wine Society Commercial and Amateurs Competitions, Winemaker Magazine's Amateur competition, the New Jersey Governor's Cup, the Pennsylvania Governor's Cup, the Pittsburgh AWS Regional Amateur Competition, the Maryland Wine Festival Amateur, Best of Show Frederick County Fair Amateur, Montgomery County Fair Amateur and the Maryland State Fair Amateur which included the Best of Show. Part of her early training involved a summer job in the vineyards of G. Hamilton Mowbray in Westminster, MD where she tied up vines and learned from this east coast master. She currently does free-lance wine consulting, wine writing and wine education. She holds a DeLong Century Club certificate having tasted 100 different wine varietals and is close to her second 100. She has traveled with the Brotherhood of the Knights of the Vine to various international

conferences and wine tastings in Provence, Bergerac, and Reims (Champagne) France; Barcelona, Spain; Morges, Switzerland, London, England, Budapest, Hungary and most recently Sonoma and Napa in Northern California. She especially enjoyed her Bordeaux river cruise with Cooper Vineyard and explored Burgundy with them in Sept 2016 followed by a Danube cruise with the AWS in spring 2017.

**Anne Vercelli** has worked with the Cloverdale Citrus Fair now called the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition, since 1987, most recently as its Assistant Director. Anne is responsible for assisting in overall planning, organizing and implementing all aspects of the competition with primary responsibility for receiving, coding, and presenting the over 5,000 wines received each year. She is responsible for a staff of 100 volunteers.

Vercelli has worked as the Coordinator of the Professional Food Competitions of the Sonoma County Harvest Fair since 1981. She has elevated the food competitions from 2 judgings to 10 judgings with entries increasing each year. She is responsible for 12 chef demonstrations during the Harvest Fair week-end. She is also a Professional Wine Judge having served on a judging panel for the International Women's Wine Competition in Santa Rosa, California.

Anne has been an instructor since 1981 at Santa Rosa Junior College where she currently teaches 6 classes in Italian Cuisine in the Culinary Department. She also assists in the College's Agricultural Department where she teaches Wine Service and Hospitality and Sonoma County Wine Appellations classes.

She is a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America (C.I.A.) with an A.O.S degree. Upon graduation she received the Richard Keating award "Most Likely To Succeed". She was also awarded the coveted position of "Fellowship" in the Escoffier Room at the C.I.A. Anne received her B.A. in Food and Nutrition from California State University, Sacramento.