

San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo 2022-2023 Champion Wine Judges

The 13th annual International Wine Competition was held on Oct 3-5, 2022 with over 880 entries judged by a panel of 60 judges. **The nine champion judges below returned on Oct 5 to judge the Double Gold wines and determine the Grand Champion and Reserve Champion wines.** These judges hold certifications of WSET Level III or equivalent and have many years of industry experience. The Top 14 Champion wines will be celebrated and auctioned on November 17, 2022 at the Shrine Auditorium at the Champion Wine Auction & Dinner. More information can be found at www.sarodeo.com/wine.

Arnold Gilberg has spent 48 years in the wine business as a Distributor, supplier and retailer. He also teaches wine classes at Texas Tech University and CSW wine training. He is a founding member of the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Wine Committee and has served 18 years on the judging panel and Super panel. He is also a founding member of the San Antonio Rodeo Wine committee and has served 13 years on the judging panel and Champion panel. He has been retired for 7 years and is enjoying life.



Guy Stout is a Certified Wine Educator (CWE), a Certified Wine Specialist (CSS) and a previous President of the Society of Wine Educators. One of only 215 Master Sommeliers in the world, Guy has been recognized as a Houston Icon for his contribution to the wine and food industry of Texas. A graduate of the University of Houston Hilton School, Guy has served on the board of directors of the Court of Master Sommelier and is an active wine judge for a variety of national competitions.

Fabien Jacob is a lecturing instructor of hospitality and service management at The Culinary Institute of America (CIA), San Antonio. Mr. Jacob teaches various hospitality and service courses in the college's degree programs, including the Contemporary Hospitality and Service Management, Formal Hospitality and Service Management courses, which take place in the Savor restaurant adjacent to campus, as well as Introduction to wine and Hospitality to the culinary and Baker students.



Prior to joining the CIA faculty in 2019, Mr. Jacob was wine director, sommelier, and floor manager at Bohanan's Prime Steaks & Seafood in San Antonio and opening wine director at Peggy's on the Green in Boerne, TX. He was also general manager of Sandbar and sommelier at Le Reve and Il Sogno in San Antonio—all part of CIA graduate Andrew Weissman's restaurant group. After leaving the AWG, he was the general manager and beverage manager at CIA alumnus Doug Horn's original Dough pizzeria in San Antonio.

The native of Lyon, France graduated from Lycée Hôtelier Notre Dame de la Providence in Orchies, France and Lycée Hôtelier du Touquet in Le Touquet, France, with a focus on hospitality, wine knowledge, and wine service. Fabien Jacob is a Certified Sommelier (CS), got the second level of the Wine and Spirit Education Trust (Wset 2) and Certified Specialist of Wine (CSW). Mr. Jacob has traveled extensively through Europe to advance his wine education and he speaks five languages.



Jennifer Beckmann Following a career as a Sommelier in Chicago, Jennifer joined the Texas Hill Country wine industry in 2009 offering her skills to open, develop and promote four boutique wineries from their beginning phases over the last decade. In 2019 she became one of less than 500 wine professionals in the world to be awarded the title of Certified Wine Educators by the Society of Wine Educators and holds a level 2 Certified Sommelier title with the Court of Master Sommeliers. She writes a bi-monthly wine column for Edible San Antonio and fervently supports local charity organizations as a member of the Dames d' Escoffier and San Antonio Chef Cooperative. Seeing a need to promote the local wine industry in San Antonio, she opened a boutique urban winery in the heart of Hemisfair Park (downtown San Antonio) in 2021 to bring Texas produced wines and approachable wine education to the public.

Jeremy Stiles has over 20 years' experience in the Alcohol Beverage industry and is currently a Broker. He previously served as VP of Chain Accounts at Ambiente Wine Importing Co, a wholesale distribution company based in Austin, Texas. Jeremy holds a Level 3 WSET Advanced and Certified Court of Master Sommeliers.



Julie Kuhlken, PhD is CEO and co-owner of Pedernales Cellars, located in Stonewall in the Texas Hill Country. A well-versed wine professional, she has earned the Level III award from the Wine and Spirits Education Trust, and has served as President of the Texas Hill Country Winery Association. She currently serves on the marketing committee of the Texas Hill Country Winery Association, as well as on the board of the Economic Development Commission for Gillespie County. As a graduate of Stanford University and former academic, she is the author of a book and numerous articles in the field of philosophy, including essays on wine and philosophy. Her academic career offered her the chance to teach as a professor in both the US and UK. She continues to travel internationally to wine regions in countries as diverse as Australia, Chile, Greece, Spain, France, Mexico and Germany in order to taste and talk with her counterparts around the world.

John Moore – John has over 28 years in the restaurant/beverage industry. John is currently employed with H-E-B and has spent the last 4 years managing beer/wine in the Houston Market. His current certifications include: CSW, WSET 3, French Wine Scholar, Certified Spanish Wine Instructor, International Sommelier Guild Level 2 and WSET Sake 1 Certified.





Jeff Degner is a CSW, WSET Level II wine specialist and Business Development Manager of Wine at H-E-B. He has an extraordinary breadth of knowledge in alcohol production and marketing and an established track record of consistently increasing revenue and favorably impacting profitability. Jeff is adept at highlighting little-known yet superior wineries, vineyards and vintages as well as National Brands. He has the great ability to foster and sustain superb professional relationships with distributors, vendors and store managers.

Michael Catalano – Michael holds CSW and WSETII certifications and is currently a Beer & Wine Manager at H-E-B in Houston, TX.

