

✿ Fall Competition Judges

Judges for the Fall Competition

[Benoit Beaudet](#)

[Sid Cross](#)

[Eric Degerman](#)

[Dennis Dwernychuk](#)

[Jurgen Gothe](#)

[D.J. Kearney](#)

[Judith Lane](#)

[Tim Pawsey](#)

[Barbara Philip](#)

[Mireille Sauve](#)

[John Schreiner](#)

[Michael Vaughan](#)



Benoit Beaudet Senior Merchandising Director. Established in Montréal, Québec for 18 years, he's the 4th generation of "Burgundy negociant".

Food processing engineer, degree in management he's a former banker who joined the SAQ (Société des alcools du Québec) in 2001 as a portfolio manager.

During the recent years, as Senior Director of Selection and Merchandising for specialty wines and spirits, has contributed with his team to the growth of sales of the high-end market in Quebec. took part at the creation of the "Cellier magazine" in 2006.

In his mandate he has the privilege to merchandise a large and deep scale of wines from all over the world in a high-end international connoisseur market. He's currently involved in the elaboration of the next-generation outlet and the new buying experience for the consumer.



Sid Cross is globally respected for his extensive knowledge of wine and food, his tasting ability and his memory. Sid is Wines Committee Chair for the world organization of The International Wine & Food Society (www.iwfs.org) headquartered in London England.

He is a frequent wine judge, panelist and entertaining educator on wine and food. These include among others The Canadian Wine Awards, Lieutenant- Governor Awards For Excellence, Steamboat Springs Colorado Wine Festival, Vancouver Magazine Wine Competition, International Value Wine Awards, Vancouver Playhouse International Wine Festival, Whistler's Cornucopia, Best of BC for the BCLDB, Georgia Straight and the Vino Awards.

He is the wine and food guru for Western Living Magazine as a Contributing Editor and writes for several other wine and food publications. Co-founder and advisor to the active The Chefs' Table Society of British Columbia (www.chefstablesociety.ca) he is in demand as a culinary judge including the Olympic Gold Medal Plates in Vancouver, the Canadian Culinary Championships, and Ocanwise's BC Sustainable Seafood Chowder Competition.

Sid is the only Canadian to be inducted as a Membre d'Honneur of the L'Academie du vin de Bordeaux (www.academie.vins-bordeaux.fr) and to be awarded The Gourmet of the Year by The Society of Bacchus America ("for outstanding knowledge of food and wines and for imparting this knowledge to others").

He has been promoted by the French Government from Chevalier to Officer status in the prestigious Ordre du Merite Agricole. He has travelled extensively around the world in pursuit of his passion for wine and food including dining at many of the top restaurants and visiting many wineries. First acting as a lawyer and lately as a media person Sid has been active in the wine and food industry for a long time. Sid has tirelessly worked as a friend of both restaurateurs and chefs operating in BC dealing with bureaucracy and helping to improve their operations.

He will be honoured by entry into the BC Restaurant Association Hall of Fame (www.bcrfa.com) as a Friend of the Industry on March 30, 2009. Also enthusiastic about Italy's slow food movement and their diverse wine selection he is a past director of and wine advisor to ICCBC (Italian Chamber of Commerce in BC). Sid using his legal background has recorded detailed notes of his comprehensive tasting experiences over the years in his chronological black book diaries providing one of the most extensive historical wine and food information collections of its kind in the world. He is an instrumental force in many charitable fund raising events involving wine and food."



Eric Degerman is managing editor, wine judge and restaurant writer for Wine Press Northwest, a quarterly consumer magazine that was founded in 1998 and focuses on Washington, Oregon,





British Columbia and Idaho.

He is online managing editor at the Tri-City (Wash.) Herald and lives in Richland, Wash., with Traci, his wife of 19 years, and their cat, Ichiro. His judging history includes the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition, Northwest Wine Summit, Grand Harvest Awards, Long Beach Grand Cru, Washington State Wine Competition, the Okanagan Fall Wine Festival and Oregon's Greatest of the Grape.



Dennis Dwernychuk attended the University of Victoria and the University of British Columbia completing Bachelors of Science degrees in Biology, Psychology, and Sociology.

During university, part-time employment with the Liquor Distribution branch fostered an appreciation with wines shared with fellow colleagues, this appreciation fostered the establishment of the Victoria Wine Society as founding and executive director. Career with the LDB has spanned 30 years, presently as senior Product Consultant at the Kelowna Orchard Park Signature Liquor Store.

He completed the Diploma level of London's Wines and Spirits Education Trust qualification. One of only 6000 individuals worldwide. -He has performed over 300 educational wine seminars and currently teaches the WSET courses in the Okanagan Valley with Fine Vintage Limited. Dennis was one of the first participants qualified by the British Columbia Wine Institute to certify BC wines for the VQA programme in 1993.



Jurgen Gothe is best known to millions of listeners across Canada and the U.S.A. as the three-time Gold Medal winning host of CBC Radio 2's daily afternoon drive-time program DiscDrive, (Best Radio Personality, Best Scheduled English-language Music Program, Best Radio Host) which ran for 23 years before leaving the air in the fall of 2007. He is the only broadcaster in the CBC Networks 70-plus year history to achieve the hat trick. DiscDrive was followed by the Sunday afternoon program of musical eclectica, called Farrago, which had its final airing in June of 2009. He was a prominent part of Canada's national broadcaster for over 30 years.

He has also been featured frequently on many private radio stations in Vancouver, Winnipeg and Los Angeles and continues with twice-daily food-and-wine features, called Vancouver Flavours on the popular new **100.5 FM "The Peak"**

He is also a widely-read wine and food columnist/editor for numerous publications in Vancouver, including the wine and spirits columns for **The Georgia Straight** and Food & Wine Editor for **NUVO Magazine**, plus publications elsewhere in Canada and around the world. He is a frequent judge at wine competitions at the local, regional, national and international levels.

Last summer saw him launch a very popular onboard wine tasting program, for **The Rocky Mountaineer** train, between Vancouver and Banff, which achieved a 97% Excellent rating from train travelers.

He remains actively involved in various corporate endeavors including video productions, corporate identity makeover projects, importing, and marketing.

He has published four books, including two cookbooks, four CDs, and has undertaken various theatrical ventures, including the musical version of War of the Worlds. The most recent—an irreverent look at wine, in a cabaret setting, called **Up Your Glass!** was part of the 29th annual Vancouver Playhouse International Wine Festival, underwritten by the Australian winery [yellow tail].

A live music concert season is in the planning stages for an Okanagan winery venue, patterned after the Monterey Jazz Festival, with an anticipated launch date in 2011.



DJ Kearney is a Vancouver-based wine educator, wine writer, judge, presenter and chef. She has trained hundreds of sommelier candidates from across North America in Vancouver, Victoria, Portland, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Phoenix, to name a few of her regular lecture destinations.

A diverse background in wine, food and geology makes her uniquely qualified to guide the discovery of the world's wine regions, the sharpening of palates, the understanding of terroir and the chemistry of food and wine harmony.

DJ is an enthusiastic and seasoned judge and annually evaluates wine at the Canadian Wine Awards,

Magazine International Wine Competition. She speaks annually at wine events including the Vancouver Playhouse International Wine Festival, Whistler's Cornucopia, and Taste Washington.

DJ writes regularly for Canada's premier wine magazine, **Wine Access**, and is the only female member of the National Tasting Panel for the publication. She appears on radio and television frequently and is an accomplished moderator and speaker for wine festivals throughout North America. Especially passionate about the wines in her own back yard, DJ regularly assists the BCWI in education events.

After University, DJ completed her classical chef training, the WSET Diploma, the International Sommelier Guild's Diploma and is currently working on her Master of Wine.

Firmly believing in the benefits of wine and health, DJ has a marathon or 12 under her belt, is a black belt in Tae Kwon Do as well as a mother of twin black belts. DJ takes to heart the dictum of the late great Julia Child: moderation, and plenty of it!



Judith Lane is an independent Vancouver-based wine, food, and travel writer. She contributes regularly to the Georgia Straight, Taste, Flavours, and Gremolata.com and writes for a raft of other North-American publications. Lane judges wine awards, wine list competitions, wine and food-pairing events, and cocktail competitions.



Tim Pawsey (aka The Hired Belly) is a Vancouver, BC, Canada based food, wine and travel journalist. Well known to Vancouver Courier readers for his restaurant reviews, food and wine columns and wine picks, he writes also for the North Shore News, and WHERE Vancouver, as well as for Northwest Palate, and BC Liquor Stores Taste magazine, among several others. He co-edits Zagat Survey for Vancouver, Victoria and Whistler, sits on the Vancouver Playhouse International Wine Festival Selection Committee and is a director of the BC Hospitality Foundation. His recently launched blog is at hiredbelly.com and he may be followed at twitter.com/hiredBelly



Barbara Philip MW was the first Western Canadian to achieve the [Master of Wine](#) designation and is the only female MW in the country. She is currently a Portfolio Manager for the British Columbia Liquor Distribution Branch (BCLDB), where she is responsible for the European wine selections in BC Liquor Stores. With her husband Iain, Barb runs Barbariain Wine Consulting and works as a presenter, journalist and judge. Barbariain has lectured and judged around the world, including Dallas, Mendoza, London and Vienna and has contributed to various publications including Decanter, Time Out Vancouver and Taste Magazine. Barb is the wine columnist on CBC Radio's On the Coast with Stephen Quinn.



Mireille Sauv  (www.thewineumbrella.com) is one of Canada's most acclaimed Wine Professionals.

A 20-year veteran of the wine and restaurant industries, Mireille graduated with honours from George Brown College's Sommelier Program, earning her the title of 'Canada's Youngest Female Sommelier' in August of 1997. After receiving her Sommelier Diploma, Mireille completed her second winery stage – a Winemaking Apprenticeship at Hedges Cellars in Washington State, USA.

Upon returning to Canada and earning multiple gold medals for her restaurant wine programs, Ms. Sauv  branched off in 1999 to develop a series of wine training seminars for restaurants which took her across the country teaching servers to work with wine. Mireille then further developed her industry knowledge by establishing Western Canada's first *Australian Wine Bureau (now Wine Australia)* in Vancouver in 2003, growing the Australian wine category to the top selling import in all four western provinces.

Following her success with Australian wines, Ms. Sauv  started up a consulting business called *The Wine Umbrella* in 2005 which enabled her to take on clients such as Wines of France, Wines of Germany, Wines from Spain and Wines of Portugal, assisting them each in successfully raising the status of their respective

brands in Canada's western provinces through modern initiatives.

Mireille has always enjoyed writing as a second passion to wine and was delighted at the opportunity to combine these two interests in the position Wine Editor for Flavours Magazine since 2004 and Regular Contributor to BC Liquor Stores' TASTE Magazine. Now a freelance wine writer in Canada and the USA, Mireille enjoys keeping continued 'fingers' in many 'wine pies', so to speak, recently adding to her portfolio a monthly feature as Wine Specialist on Shaw TV's *Studio 4* with Fanny Kiefer.

Throughout her career Sauv  has worked very closely with restaurants, wine agencies, liquor boards and wine stores and festivals throughout her career and is now the President of *The Wine Umbrella Inc.* – raising the bar in Western Canada's wine industry.



John Schreiner

Based in North Vancouver, B.C., John Schreiner is Canada's most prolific author of wine books. He has authored 15 since 1984, including three Whitecap bestsellers: *British Columbia Wine Country*, three editions of *The Wineries of British Columbia* and three editions of *John Schreiner's Okanagan Wine Tour Guide*. The third edition of the *Tour Guide*, profiling more than 150 producers, is being released in May 2010. He juggled his passion for wine with a 40-year career as a business writer for *The Financial Post* until retiring in 2001 to devote himself totally to wine. He frequently judges at wine competitions, is an accomplished home vintner and chairs the selection committee for the Vancouver Playhouse International Wine Festival. He also contributes regularly to www.planitbc.com and to his own blog, <http://johnschreiner.blogspot.com>.



Michael Vaughan is an internationally-accredited wine judge and founding director of the Society of Wine Educators. He is one of Canada's leading wine critics – from the the award-winning weekly columnist at the National Post (1999-2008) to the first wine and spirits columnist at the Globe & Mail.

In 1990 he launched *Vintage Assessments*, a bi-weekly publication featuring over 100 reviews. *Vintage Assessments* is used extensively by professional buyers, sommeliers and discerning wine lovers and will be available in August 2010 as an iPad app. It is also available on his website

www.FBTI.org along with some 25,000 detailed tasting notes. In addition, Michael Vaughan's travel articles entitled *Vintage Destinations* appear in *Dreamscapes Magazine*, which is circulated nationally in the Globe & Mail. As a restaurant reviewer/critic, he also contributes to the annual *En Route* dining awards and makes various radio/television appearances.

He is a former professor of Economics at Ryerson University and owned/operated a Toronto-based food distribution business.