

# SWE's 2021 Virtual Conference: Speaker Biographies



## **Mark Davidson: The Evolving Landscape of Australian Wine.**

Born in London and raised in Sydney, Mark Davidson has over 40 years of experience in the hotel, restaurant, and wine business—fifteen of those as a Sommelier. In 2001, he was named Sommelier of the Year at the Vancouver Wine Festival- also won the Spirited Industry Professional award in 2014. As a Department Head and instructor with the International Sommelier Guild he was instrumental in the ongoing development of the curriculum and has taught classes in Vancouver, Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego, and Las Vegas. Mark is an annual judge at Teksom International Wine Awards and has judged many other competitions in both Canada and the US. He is in the process of writing the Wines of Australia book for Classic Wine Library. Mark is currently Head of Education Development for Wine Australia in North America.

## **Annie Edgerton, DipWSET, CSW: Teamwork Makes the Dream Work— Red Blends Come to Play.**

Annie Edgerton has been working in the wine industry since before she was legally able to drink! She holds the WSET Diploma in Wines & Spirits, is a Certified Sommelier (Court of Master Sommeliers,) is a Certified Specialist of Wine and Certified Specialist of Spirits (Society of Wine Educators,) and she is a candidate for membership in the Appraisers Association of America. This year she is also applying for the Institute of Masters of Wine, so please cross your fingers for her. Annie primarily works alongside her father, William H. Edgerton, at Edgerton Wine Appraisals & Consultation, where they tackle insurance claims, counterfeit wine investigation, and value collections for estate and tax purposes. She is also the Wine Minx® and is the host of “Wine Minx: UNCORKED!” and “Broadway Buzzed” on YouTube, and the livestream “Day Drinking with the Wine Minx.” She writes the blog [wineminx.blogspot.com](http://wineminx.blogspot.com) and she is active on social media @wineminxannie (IG/twt) and “Wine Minx” on FB. For more information: [wineminxannie.com](http://wineminxannie.com).

**Ed Korry, CSS, CWE: Wine: Nectar of the Gods—A History of Wine.** Ed Korry served as the President of the Society of Wine Educators from 2014 to 2016 and remains an executive board member of the US Bartenders Guild Master Accreditation Program. He is a Certified Hospitality Educator, Certified Wine Educator, Certified Specialist of Spirits, registered tutor of the Wine & Spirits Education Trust, *Formador Homologado del Vino de Jerez* (Certified Sherry Wine Educator), and a certified Bordeaux Wine Educator. Ed recently retired from a decades-long career as a hospitality educator, having previously served as an Associate Professor and Chair of the Beverage & Dining Service Department in the College of Culinary Arts at Johnson & Wales University in Providence, RI where he championed the development and implementation of beverage and sommelier concentrations/minors. Ed currently leads the judging for the prestigious industry food & beverage VIBE Vista Awards and is a wine judge at international competitions. He teaches and has developed classes that specialize in wine, beer, and spirits; mixology, coffee and tea; and restaurant management. Ed continues to lecture at national and international conferences and writes beverage articles at home and abroad. Prior to joining Johnson & Wales

University, he worked in the hotel/restaurant industry—including a stint as the Food & Beverage Director for several of the university’s practicum properties.

**Sharron McCarthy, CSW: Vivacious Valpolicella—did you know?** Sharron McCarthy, Director Emeritus and Past President of the U.S. Society of Wine Educators and former VP Wine Education at Banfi Vintners, is a wine industry legend. Affectionately known as “America’s First Lady of Wine Ed,” Sharron has played an instrumental role in introducing Americans from all walks of life to an appreciation for the fruit of the vine. In February 2015, Sharron was recognized by the Italian Trade Commission and the Italian Consul General of Italy for her efforts, service, and visionary approach toward Italian wines and her decades long efforts to promote Italian wines in the United States. Sharron was inducted into the Wines of Italy Hall of Fame to honor her as a goodwill ambassador for Italian wines and for her dedication to the country of Italy and to the Italian way of life. Other of Sharron’s many accolades include that she is a Sommelier, certified by the Sommelier Society of America (where she served on their board for a number of years) and has been honored by the American Wine Society with its prestigious Award of Merit. Sharron is a member of a number of organizations including New York Women’s Culinary Alliance, Women of the Vine and Spirits and *La Chaîne de Rotisseurs*.

**Jane A. Nickles, CSE, CWE: How to Train Your Nose.** Jane A. Nickles, CSE, CWE has over 25 years of experience as a wine and spirits educator and instructional designer, teaching professional wine studies, beverage management, and food and wine pairing classes both on the ground and online. In her current role as the Director of Education for the Society of Wine Educators, she is in charge of all reference materials, teaching tools, and examinations provided by the Society; but most people will recognize her for the lively conference sessions, certification prep classes, and webinars she continues to provide for SWE.

**Alan Tardi, CSW: A Match Made in Heaven: The Intimate Bond Between Wine, Food and Regional Identity in Italy.** Alan Tardi first got interested in wine while working as a cook and chef in some of New York City’s finest restaurants and it blossomed into a passion when he opened his own restaurant in Manhattan in 2001. He soon started writing for Wine & Spirits Magazine and went on to write for numerous other publications including The New York Times, Sommelier Journal, and Wine Spectator. In 2003 Alan moved to the village of Castiglione Falletto in Italy where he worked extensively in the surrounding vineyards and wineries and managed the town’s *Cantina Comunale*. His first book “Romancing the Vine: Life, Love and Transformation in the Vineyards of Barolo” won a James Beard Award for Best Wine Book of 2006. His second book “Champagne, Uncorked: The House of Krug and Timeless Allure of the World’s Most Celebrated Drink” (2016) received a Gourmand Best in the World Award. Alan holds a CSW from the Society of Wine Educators, IWS and Champagne Master certificates from the Wine Scholar Guild and is currently pursuing WSET Advanced Level 3 Award.

**Lucia Volk, PhD, CWE, DipWSET: Garnacha/Grenache: The Tale of One Grape on Two Sides of the Pyrenees.** Lucia Volk, CWE, PhD, runs a wine education business in the Bay Area called Mindful Vine, catering to private and corporate clients. She also holds a PhD in cultural anthropology and teaches on globalization and wine at San Francisco State University. In 2017, she received SWE’s Banfi Award for the highest overall score in that year’s CWE exam. For the past four years, she has lectured and blogged for SWE on a variety of topics. A German native from an extended wine-producing family, she enjoys demystifying complicated labels and regulations to enhance everyone’s enjoyment of Central European wines.