

THE 2011 REGIONAL CHAIRS

The reputation and authority of our Awards rests largely on the unrivalled expertise of our Regional Chairs who, along with their chosen judging teams, identify the best wines within their regional category.



STEVEN SPURRIER - CHAIRMAN

46 years in wine. Steven Spurrier is one of the wine world's legendary names. In 1973 he opened L'Academie du Vin, France's first private wine school, and went on to stage the famous Paris Tasting of 1976, which changed the perception of New World wines. In 1988 Spurrier returned to the UK where he became a wine consultant and journalist. Today his roles include a director of The Christie's Wine Course, which he founded with Christie's Education in 1982, wine consultant to Singapore Airlines and consultant editor to Decanter.

He has received several international awards for wine writing and is one of the wine world's most respected figures.

ITALY



VENETO – RICHARD BAUDAINS

19 years in wine. Richard has spent most of the last 20 years in Italy. He has written on Italian wine for Decanter since 1989 and today contributes to various Italian wine publications and the California-based Italian Wine Review.



TUSCANY – JANE HUNT MW

36 years in wine. Jane started in the wine trade with Cantine Lungarotti in Umbria before joining John Harvey & Sons in Bristol, becoming a Master of Wine in 1985.



PIEDMONT & SOUTHERN ITALY – IAN D'AGATA

25 years in wine. Ian is the past winner of the "Best young Italian journalist" award by the Comitato Grandi Cru d'Italia. He is the author of The Ecco Guide to the Best Wines of Italy and the co-author of the annual D'Agata & Comparini Italy's Best Wines guide.



REGIONAL ITALY – ROSEMARY GEORGE MW

38 years in wine. One of the first female Masters of Wine, passing her exams in 1979, Rosemary is a frequent contributor to Decanter and the Wine Quarterly Review.

NEW
REGIONS
FOR ITALY

THE AMERICAS *(left to right)*

USA –

STEPHEN BROOK

28 years in wine. Stephen is a Decanter contributing editor, writes wine diaries for decanter.com and is the author of more than 30 books, including The Wines of California.

CANADA –

TONY ASPLER

34 years in wine. Tony was the Toronto Star's wine columnist for 21 years. He has written 14 books, including The Wine Atlas of Canada and writes the Canada section of The Wine Report.

ARGENTINA –

MARINA GAYAN MW

17 years in wine Originally from Argentina, Marina moved to London in 1993, becoming a Master of Wine in 2003. In 2006 she set up Marina Consulting, a company focused on identity and commercial strategies.

CHILE AND SOUTH AMERICA, EXCL. ARGENTINA –

PETER RICHARDS MW

11 years in wine. Award-winning writer, broadcaster and Decanter contributor, Peter Richards MW relishes his status as the youngest (and tallest) Regional Chairman at the DWWA.



FRANCE *(left to right)*

LANGUEDOC ROUSSILLON – ANDREW JEFFORD

22 years in wine. In addition to his Decanter column, Andrew has written several books, and writes on wine, beer, spirits and travel for The Financial Times, Waitrose Food Illustrated and other publications.

BORDEAUX – JAMES LAWTHER MW

26 years in wine. A contributing editor to Decanter, James is an independent wine writer, lecturer and tour guide based in Bordeaux.

BURGUNDY – MICHAEL SCHUSTER

28 years in wine. Michael studied wine tasting in Bordeaux. After creating an award-winning retail business in the early 1980s, he went on to work independently as a wine writer and lecturer and now runs his own wine school in North London.

LOIRE – JIM BUDD

22 years in wine. Jim changed careers in 1988 when he went from education to wine. Since then he has written for a wide variety of magazines and newspapers, including Decanter, The Financial Times, The Independent Pocket Wine Guide and A Travellers Wine Guide to France.

ALSACE & CHAMPAGNE – TOM STEVENSON

34 years in wine, 23 books and 32 literary awards. He has specialised in Alsace and Champagne since the early 1980s.

REGIONAL FRANCE – GERARD BASSET MW

27 years in wine. Gérard is an award-winning sommelier, who co-founded Hotel du Vin. He is currently the World Wine President of Court of Master Sommeliers and the only person in the world to be a Master of Wine, Master Sommelier and Wine MBA.

RHONE - JOHN LIVINGSTONE-LEARMONTH

38 years in wine. Honorary citizen of Châteauneuf-du-Pape, John is author of The Wines of the Northern Rhône. As well as the Rhône, he has written about the wines of the Loire, Beaujolais and Bordeaux, and has had articles published in a broad range of British magazines.



REST OF EUROPE (left to right)

SLOVENIA - ROBERT GORJAK

16 years in wine. Robert is based near Ljubljana where he has written about wine since 1994. Besides regular contributions to Slovenian periodicals, he is a contributor to the Oxford Wine Companion and Wine Atlas, and founded the first Slovenian wine school, Belvin.

UK - STEPHEN SKELTON MW

35 years in wine. Stephen has been involved with making wine since 1975. In 1977 he returned to the UK to establish the vineyards at Tenterden in Kent. In 2003 Stephen became a Master of Wine, winning the prestigious Robert Mondavi Trophy.

AUSTRIA AND GERMANY – GILES MACDONOGH

28 years in wine. Author of four wine books, Giles writes for *Decanter*, Classic FM, Taste and BBC History and Slowfood. After attending university in Oxford and Paris, Giles became a historian and wine writer.

CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE, SOUTHERN & EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN – ANGELA MUIR MW

40 years in wine. In 1988 Angela set up her own company, a prize-winning wine shop and school. Cellarworld International followed, and Cellarworld Argentina in 2002. She has held an MW for over 20 years.



HUNGARY - CAROLINE GILBY MW

22 years in wine. Caroline is an independent consultant and freelance wine writer and has been a Master of Wine since 1992. Previously a board director of the UK Wine Standards Board, she currently lectures for the Wine and Spirit Education Trust at Diploma level.

GREECE – NICO MANESSIS

21 years in wine. Nico is author of The Greek Wine Guide and The Illustrated Greek Wine Book. During the last 10 years he has written on Greek wine for a range of titles, including *Decanter*.

SPAIN – JOHN RADFORD

29 years in wine. John is a writer, broadcaster and lecturer, and he has contributed on Spanish and Portuguese wines for many encyclopaedias and anthologies.

SPAIN – SARAH JANE EVANS MW

15 years in wine. Sarah Jane is a writer and broadcaster. She has judged at wine shows in Australia, Chile, Georgia, Germany and Portugal as well as the UK. She has a special interest in sherry and in Spanish wines in general. She became a Master of Wine in 2006.



NEW
REGIONAL CHAIR
FOR PORTUGAL



PORT AND MADEIRA – RICHARD MAYSON

26 years in wine. Brought up in Portugal, Richard is author of *The Wines and Vineyards of Portugal and Port and the Douro*. Richard also writes for *Decanter*.

PORTUGAL TABLE WINE – SARAH AHMED

10 years in wine. Sarah is an award-winning freelance wine writer, blogger, educator and judge, with a particular expertise in the wines of Portugal.

REST OF THE WORLD (left to right)

SOUTH AFRICA – JOHN AVERY MW

42 years in wine. John is the 4th generation of his family at Aveyrs, the renowned wine merchant in Bristol. As one of the country's senior Masters of Wine, John is always looking for wines of exceptional quality and value.

NEW ZEALAND – MARGARET HARVEY MW

37 years in wine. Margaret passed her MW in 1991 and in 1998 she was awarded the New Zealand Order of Merit. Then in 2006, she was awarded Honorary Life Member to New Zealand Winegrowers for services to the industry.

AUSTRALIA - MICHAEL HILL SMITH MW

36 years in wine. Michael was the first Australian to pass the Master of Wine exam in 1988 and co-founded Shaw and Smith winery in the Adelaide Hills the following year. He was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2008.

AUSTRALIA - ANTHONY ROSE

23 years in wine. Anthony is the wine correspondent of The Independent newspaper. He is a wine educator, international wine judge and the Chairman of *Decanter's* Wine Retailer Awards.

MIDDLE EAST, FAR EAST & ASIA – CH'NG POH TIONG

30 years in wine. A trained lawyer, Ch'ng Poh Tiong is publisher of *The Wine Review*, Southeast Asia's oldest wine magazine, and is a *Decanter* columnist. He founded the International Congress of Chinese Cuisine & Wine and writes a blog for Sina.com.

