



Savor Northwest Judges & Staff



Savor Northwest 2025 Judges

(Left to right): **Eric Degerman**, wine journalist, founder of Great Northwest Wine and a Northwest wine specialist for National Geographic/Lindblad Expeditions; **Ilene Dudunake**, owner of A New Vintage Wine Shop in Meridian, Idaho since 2001; **Gordy Venneri**, winemaker and co-owner of Walla Walla Vintners for 22 years; **Ellen Landis**, international wine judge, certified sommelier, wine writer and educator; **Ken Robertson**, a Northwest wine journalist since 1978, **Amberleigh Brownson**, wine writer, assistant winemaker and four-time Wine Spectator Award of Excellence winner for restaurant wine list and wine club program; **Richard Larsen**, retired research winemaker and enologist at Washington State University; **Julia Crowley**, an Oregon-based wine writer and radio show host also known as Wine Julia; **Steven Sinkler**, wine professional with a WSET level 3 certificate; **Gary Hayes**, chief judge, wine reviewer and founder of SavorNW.

Savor Northwest Backroom Staff

It takes a dedicated and experienced team devoted to attention to detail to run the backroom of a professional wine competition. The Savor Northwest team is second to none with a commitment to ensuring the judging process is anonymous, fair and efficient. As judges evaluate wines in a separate room, the backroom staff is busy organizing, decanting, pouring and delivering upcoming flights; labeling glasses, assuring optimum temperature of wines before serving, refreshing the judges' palate cleansers, recording competition results, photographing Gold Medal winners and organizing them for review; and constantly washing hundreds of glasses.



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