



## 2016 SavorNW Wine Awards Judges

### **Andy Perdue**

Andy Perdue is co-owner, editor and writer at Great Northwest Wine. A veteran wine writer, he was editor-in-chief of Wine Press Northwest for 16 years and also currently writes for the Seattle Times and Pacific Northwest magazine. Author of *The Northwest Wine Guide: A Buyer's Handbook*, he has judged at many competitions including the SavorNW Wine Awards, the San Francisco International Wine Competition, the Los Angeles International Wine & Spirits Competition, the Dallas Morning News and TexSom Wine Competition, the Seattle Wine Awards, the Idaho Wine Competition and the Northwest Wine Summit, among many others.

### **Ellen Landis**

Published wine writer, certified sommelier and wine consultant, Ellen Landis is former sommelier of the Half Moon Bay Ritz Carlton and was Wine Director and Sommelier at Landis Shores Oceanfront Inn for 20 years, which she co-owned with husband and chef Ken Landis. She is also a renowned international wine judge whose experience includes, but is certainly not limited to, the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition, The West Coast Wine Competition, the Mid-American Wine Competition and the Long Beach Grand Cru International Wine Competition.

### **Yashar Shayan**

Founder of ImpulseWine.com, a virtual wine shop specializing in boutique wines, Yashar Shayan's talents include wine and social media consulting. His wine judging experience extends to the SavorNW Wine Awards, the Washington Wine Awards, the Great Northwest Invitational, Wine Press Northwest's Platinum Judging and the Seattle Wine Awards.

### **Annette Rau Solomon**

After completing her Certificate in Enology and Viticulture from Oregon's Northwest Viticulture Center, Annette Rau Solomon worked at several Oregon wineries and even produced several cases of her own wine. She further developed her knowledge of wines from around the world through her course work and subsequent Certification as a Sommelier by the International Sommelier Guild. A past judge for the SavorNW Wine Awards, Annette was one of the original wine bloggers for the Statesman journal and later published her own wine column and monthly winery profile.

### **Gordy Venneri**

Founder and owner of Walla Walla Vintners, Gordy Venneri is a veteran of the Northwest wine industry who began as a hobbyist over 30 years ago. His wines have won many, many awards through the years

in competitions like the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition and the Great Northwest Wine Invitational. He is also a past judge of the SavorNW Wine Awards.

**Laurel Hood**

Laurel Hood is owner of Laurel's Wine Shop in Cannon Beach. She is the winemaker of Laurel Hood Wines and has judged past SavorNW Wine Awards events.

**Steven Sinkler**

Owner of The Wine Shack and Provisions 124 in Cannon Beach, Steven Sinkler's Puffin Brand Wines have garnered multiple awards through the years. His wine judging experience extends not only to prior years with SavorNW, but also competitions that include the Great Northwest Wine Competition and the Great Northwest Invitational Wine Competition.

**April Reddout**

April Reddout is the Wine Program Manager at the Walter Clore Wine & Culinary Center. She procures wines from all over Washington and oversees the wine education programs offered at the center. April is a regular judge for Great Northwest Wine and writes a wine column for the Prosser Record-Bulletin.

**Ken Robertson**

Ken Robertson has been sipping and writing about Northwest wines since he moved to Kennewick, Washington, in 1976. He retired as editor of the Tri-City Herald, where he was among a group of editors and writers who helped found Wine Press Northwest magazine in 1998. He remains a contributing editor and writer on the magazine and serves on its tasting panel. He has judged at several Northwest wine competitions including the SavorNW Wine Awards, Wine Press Northwest's annual Platinum Judging, the Northwest Wine Summit and the Idaho Wine Competition.

**Hank and Nancy Sauer, Facilitators**

Hank and Nancy Sauer have facilitated some of the largest wine competitions in the Northwest, including the Great Northwest Wine Competition, the Walla Walla Valley Wine Competition, the Wine Press Northwest Platinum Judging, the Great Northwest Invitational Wine Competition and the Northwest Wine Summit. Both are retired educators who have participated with the SavorNW Wine Awards for three years and are a beloved part of our team.