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Z O O M

#WomenInWine

#POWER

Women in Wine:

Navigating Risks and Opportunities

B I O G R A P H I E S

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE:



Suzanne Yountchi joined U.S. Embassy Paris' Economic Section in 2018 and is responsible for U.S. engagement on trade, entrepreneurship, and digital economy issues in France. Prior to her assignment in Paris, Suzanne served in Burma, South Africa, Turkey, and India. Before joining the Foreign Service in 2007, Suzanne served on the Turkey and Iraq desks for the Department as a Foreign Affairs Officer and on Iran for the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor. Born in San Francisco to an immigrant father and California-native mother, Suzanne's natural interest in other cultures and travel led to her undergraduate degree in International Affairs and Economics from Lewis & Clark College and a Master's Degree in Middle East Studies from the University of Texas at Austin. She also spent two years studying at Bogazici University in Istanbul, Turkey. Suzanne speaks French, Persian (Farsi), and Turkish. Suzanne and her husband enjoy traveling the world in search of good food, good wine, and good conversation and are looking forward to their next adventure in Gaborone, Botswana, where she will serve as the State Department's Regional Environment Officer for Southern Africa.



Brian Aggeler is the Chargé d'affaires *ad interim* at the U.S. Embassy in Paris, France. Previously, he was the Deputy Chief of Mission in Paris from 2019 to 2021 and the Minister-Counselor for Political Affairs there from 2017 to 2019. Prior to his arrival in France, he was Director of the Office of Assistance Coordination in the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, leading an office of 70 in Washington and two regional hub offices in coordinating all U.S. government assistance to the Middle East to reflect policy priorities. A career member of the U.S. Senior Foreign Service with the rank of Minister Counselor, he previously served as Coordinator for Economic and Development Assistance at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad. He has also served as the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Skopje, Macedonia. Other previous assignments have included Political Counselor in Hanoi, Vietnam, Chargé d'affaires at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris, and other tours in Delhi, Chennai, Budapest, Ouagadougou and Washington. Before joining the Foreign Service, he was a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Central African Republic. He is married to Senior Foreign Service Officer Angela Aggeler. Their daughter Madeleine is a writer in Austin, Texas.



Elaine Chukan Brown won the prestigious Wine Communicator of the Year award in 2020 from IWSC and Vintaly. She serves as the American Specialist for JancisRobinson.com, a columnist for Club Oenologique, and is a contributing writer to Wine & Spirits Magazine. She contributed to the 8th edition of the World Atlas of Wine, and the 4th edition of the Oxford Companion to Wine, both of which have since won multiple awards. In 2019, the Wine Industry Network named Elaine one of the Nine Most Inspiring People in Wine. Her writing has been featured in Decanter, World of Fine Wine, the Robb Report, and others, and recommended by Food & Wine, Imbibe, the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, and more. She has been a celebrated keynote speaker for events worldwide and serves as one of the most celebrated educators of wine. Prior to her career in wine, Elaine served as the Charles A. Eastman Fellow at Dartmouth College and a Tomlinson Fellow at McGill University, where she did doctoral work in philosophy. Prior to her academic career, Elaine owned her own commercial fishing business in Bristol Bay, Alaska.



Lindsey Tramuta is an American culture & travel journalist and podcaster based in Paris since 2006. She is a regular contributor to the New York Times, Fortune, Conde Nast Traveler, Eater, Food and Wine, Travel and Leisure, Glamour, and a host of other news and travel publications. Her first book, *The New Paris: the People, Places & Ideas Fueling a Movement*, was released in 2017 and was an Amazon bestseller and named one of Smithsonian Magazine's top 10 travel books of the year. Her second book, *The New Parisienne: the Women & Ideas Shaping Paris*, was released in summer 2020 and features more than 40 women challenging the "French Girl" trope and influencing culture, politics, and business in France and beyond. Lindsey's podcast, *The New Paris* podcast, continues the conversations and themes explored in both books.



Pascaline Lepeltier moved to Manhattan in 2009 to work as the Beverage Director for the Rouge Tomate flagship in New York. Within months, she was named one of the five best new U.S. sommeliers of 2011 by Wine & Spirits, one of the "New Wine Prophets" by Time Out NY, one of the "40 under 40" beverage influencers by Wine Enthusiast and called the "Natural Wine Evangelist" by Ray ISLE in Food & Wine. The NY Times prized her Rouge Tomate wine list as one of the best in NYC in 2013, and The World of Fine Wine awarded it "Best Long Wine List in the World 2017" and "Wine List of the Year 2017." She is a partner with David Lillie in Racines NYC, one of the top wine destinations in the United States. She overlooks a 2000+ wine list focusing on "vins de vigneron," mostly

organic, biodynamic, and natural. In 2014, Pascaline passed the Master Sommelier Diploma, and in 2018, she won two more major titles in her homeland: she is now a laureate of “Un des Meilleurs Ouvriers de France - Sommelierie” and Best French Sommelier 2018. In January 2019, the famous French magazine La Revue du Vin de France awarded her “Personality of the Year 2019”, the first woman to be given this prestigious recognition. She has written for various prominent wine guides and books in France – including *The World of Fine Wine*, *Art of Eating and Wine & Spirits*. Since April 2019, she has a monthly column “Vu d’Ailleurs” in La Revue du Vin de France. She teaches with the Wine Scholar Guild. In 2017 she collaborated with acclaimed author Alice Feiring for *The Dirty Guide to Wine*. She is preparing her first solo book, to be published in 2022.



Tanisha Townsend has cultivated a community of wine enthusiasts through an unyielding passion for oenology. As Chief Wine Officer of lifestyle agency Girl Meets Glass, Tanisha hosts wine podcasts and leads university wine courses, private tastings and wine tours (virtually) in Paris and the regions beyond. Tanisha aims to empower individuals with an advanced knowledge of wine & spirits in order to build confidence in their tastes and make choices as a better informed consumer. The Girl Meets Glass experience she creates ensures that everyone completes a tasting or class equipped with valuable information as well as fond memories of their experience.



Cathy Corison was the first woman Winemaker-Proprietor in the Napa Valley and produces three Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignons, hand-crafted without compromise. She got a B.A. in Biology from Pomona College where her interest in wine was sparked during a wine appreciation class. She landed in the Napa Valley, days after graduating, with a vague intention of making world-class wine. An M.S. in Enology from U.C. Davis provided the technical foundation she needed to proceed. Decades of winemaking for others, including Chappellet Vineyard, Staglin Family Winery, Long Meadow Ranch, and York Creek Vineyards, left her eager to express her own winemaking voice. She founded Corison Winery in 1987, with the goal of making Cabernet Sauvignon that is powerful and elegant, has a sense of place, and is structured to grace the table and enjoy a long, distinguished life. With her husband, William Martin, they purchased Kronos Vineyard and Sunbasket Vineyard. Daughters Rose and Grace have been working at the winery, on and off, since they were in utero. Cathy was the San Francisco Chronicle Winemaker of the Year in 2011, Corison Winery's 25th anniversary. In 2018, 2019, and 2020 she was a finalist for the James Beard Foundation Award for Excellence in the Outstanding Wine, Beer, or Spirits Producer category. Her greatest joy is being out in the vineyards.



Marie-Dominique Bradford is a 20-year experienced wine buyer, wine educator, and wine consultant. Her troisfoisvin.com website has been selling monthly wine subscriptions since 2010. As the acknowledged trailblazer, it leads the way in offering a new wine buying experience. The wines are sourced from little-known artisanal wine growers who meet very demanding quality requirements. In 2013, she opened a retail wine store in the up and coming Haut Marais area of the 3rd arrondissement in Paris open to all wine lovers eager to find little known gems! Marie-Dominique Bradford is Vice President of Women Do Wine, an association which aims to enhance the visibility of women working in the wine business.



Kate Snipes is the USDA Agricultural Counselor in the U.S. Mission to France. She has worked for USDA for over 25 years in the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the Economic Research Service, and the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS). She served as an agricultural diplomat in Mexico, Poland, Kenya, and worked in policy and marketing positions in Washington D.C. for USDA prior to coming to France. Kate worked on the Senate Committee on Agriculture during the development of the United States Freedom to Farm Bill in 1995-1996. She has a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture and Rural Sociology and a Masters degree in Agricultural Economics from Pennsylvania State University.



Anne Malassagne is the co-owner of Champagne AR Lenoble and co-founder of La Transmission Women in Champagne. She holds a Master's degree in International Management from the University of Paris-Dauphine. She worked in the audit and organization department at L'Oréal until 1993 when she joined the Champagne AR Lenoble family estate. In 1996, her younger brother Antoine joined her and she has been increasing her professional knowledge of the industry since. Anne has two children and has been practicing swimming and barre au sol for more than 40 years. She is also involved in two associations that are close to her heart: "La Transmission, Women in Champagne," which she co-founded with Maggie Henriquez and brings together nine women decision-makers in Champagne, and the Benoît Malassagne Association, which invests in medical research.



Sandra Taylor is the founder of Sustainable Business International, a consulting business that assists companies at various stages of environmental sustainability and corporate social responsibility (CSR) practice. She is also the Falk Professor of Socially Responsible Business at Chatham University. Sandra completed the French Wine Scholars course in 2010 and is a graduate of the Wine MBA program at The Bordeaux School of Management. Her first book, *The Business of Sustainable Wine*, was published in July 2017. Sandra has had an extensive executive career in corporate public affairs, environmental sustainability, public relations, and communications, and has held leadership positions with top tier organizations including Starbucks Coffee Company and the Eastman Kodak Company, as well as government service with the U.S. State Department. Sandra is active in community board service, including RiverLife, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and Island Press. She majored in French at Colorado Women's College and received a Juris Doctor (JD) at Boston University School of Law.



Diana Snowden Seysses is a Californian by birth and Burgundian by adoption. She divides her time between her family estate, Snowden Vineyards, in the Napa Valley and Domaine Dujac in Burgundy, France. After twenty-four years in wine, she finds ever more inspiration and meaning in the craft of making vins de terroir. "The most memorable wines are living and changing. They are the result of vineyard work without chemicals, native yeast fermentation with minimal handling, and élevage in a cellar that breathes. Beyond these simple, traditional techniques, those of us who are fortunate enough to run wineries must deepen our thoughts on terroir to allow that term encompasses both ecosystem and community. We must think about balance between prosperity in our beautiful grape-growing regions and protecting the natural charm that made them famous in the first place. Climate change and all our farming choices have genetic impact on the vine. The emotional state of our employees leaves its signature on our wines. All these complex issues are in part our responsibility. I seek to protect a healthy environment in the largest sense of the term and transmit this just savoir faire to the next generation." Diana is a member of the Académie du Vin, a board member of the Porto Protocol thinking committee and a mentor for Batonnage Forum.



Nicole Rolet is the Principal of Chêne Bleu, a sustainable winery in the Rhône Valley. Born to a European father and an American mother, Nicole attended French lycées in New York and Milan before studying International politics at Vassar College. After a career in international finance and at David Rockefeller's Latin American geopolitical think tanks, she joined her husband Xavier and his family in the Rhône to restore La Verrière, an abandoned Medieval priory, and its historical vineyard, derelict but

magnificently wild -- a hidden gem in the heart of the Mt Ventoux UNESCO biosphere. Increasingly convinced of the site's exciting potential to produce Grand Cru-quality wine, she studied at WSET then UC Davis, and with her family began to transform this medieval Sleeping Beauty into a cutting-edge sustainable wine estate. Chêne Bleu wines were launched in 2009 to critical acclaim. Nicole believes in collaboration rather than competition, and remains deeply committed to reconciling business success, social responsibility, ethical and sustainable practices.

Chevalier de Tastevin in Burgundy, at the Echansonnerie in Châteauneuf-du-Pape, and the International Brotherhood of the Vine, she co-founded the International Grenache Symposium and Grenache Association in 2010. She founded the think tank Fine Minds for Fine Wines in 2017 then co-founded the Areni Institute for the Future of Fine Wine, which she now chairs. She is on the board of the Sustainable Food Program at Yale University, judge and presenter at the Women of the Future awards, delegate at the Global Female Leaders' Summit, founding member of the St James Circle at the Royal Institute for International Affairs (Chatham House), and impact investor in the She-EO perpetual fund.



Pauline Vicard owns and directs ARENI Global, a research and action institute dedicated to the future of Fine Wine, gathering top international experts in a think tank format. Growing up working hands-on in her family vineyard in Burgundy, Pauline broadened her vocational commitment to wine by joining the regional wine body and French Embassies in Cuba and Norway. She then created a successful corporate wine events and education company and was named France's largest official on-trade union wine educator. She helped 100+ restaurants increase their wine lists' profitability before moving to London to begin her Master of Wine and lead

ARENI. She's kept her links with France through ISG Luxury Management School, where she sets their wine education program and student mentoring activities. Pauline is also a WSET certified educator, mother of two little girls, and an Ultimate Frisbee champion.



Honore Comfort, as the Vice President of International Marketing of Wine Institute, promotes exports sales of California wines while building the brand for California wines on a global scale. For almost ten years, Honore served as the Executive Director of the Sonoma County Vintners, a trade marketing organization for Sonoma County wineries. Previously, with Foster's Wine Estates Americas (now Treasury Wine Estates), Honore had responsibility for marketing several international wine brands to the North American market including Penfolds and Rosemount Estate. In 2015, Honore joined Brack Mountain Wine Company, a mid-sized winery start-up, where

she served as President and oversaw sales & marketing, brand development, and business strategy. She gained marketing and advertising expertise prior to joining the wine industry

while working for Macy's West in San Francisco, the Art Institute of Chicago, and other non-profit museums and institutions around the United States. Honore lives in Healdsburg with her husband, where they manage their micro-vineyard in the heart of Dry Creek Valley.



Francesca Hansen moved to Paris to complete her B.A./MA from Johns Hopkins and Sciences Po Paris in 2008. After starting a career in consulting and the Franco-American business sphere, she decided to move into the world of wine. She started at Paris Wine Company when it was a 1-person startup, and has driven its growth to 5 million in annual export sales to 15 states, and 5 countries. Originally from south Florida, Francesca now lives in south Paris with her family and cat.



Véronique Sanders is the President and CEO of Château Haut-Bailly. After studying literature, economics, and communication at the Sorbonne (CELSA), Véronique Sanders began her career as a consultant with Publicis in Prague and in Paris. In order to improve her understanding of wine, she obtained the DUAD (University Diploma in Wine Tasting Aptitude) from the University of Bordeaux. When her grandfather, Jean Sanders, sold Château Haut-Bailly, Robert G. Wilmers asked her to stay on and manage the estate. In conjunction with Robert Wilmers, she oversaw a far-reaching investment program to modernize the vineyards, cellars, offices, and the château. Following the purchase of Château Le Pape in 2012, she directed the three-year renovation of the property that now offers charming guest rooms. Véronique is a member of the Board of Directors of the Commanderie du Bontemps de Médoc, Grave, Barsac et Sauternes, as well as that of the Union des Grands Crus de Bordeaux, the Académie du Vin de Bordeaux and the Académie Internationale du Vin. She was the first woman to be elected president of the Union des Crus Classés de Graves between 2006 and 2009. She also received the National Order of Merit in September 2011.



Cynthia Coutu is Canadian and has been living in Paris for almost 30 years. She obtained a B.A. in Fine Arts (Photography) in Canada and a Masters in Art History at the Sorbonne. After working at the Canadian Embassy in France and the OECD, she chose to pursue her passion by studying wine at L'Académie du Vin and L'École du Vin. She is a certified Wine and Spirits Education Trust Level 3 with Merit and specializes in champagne. She founded Delectabulles, a champagne networking club for women. She teaches champagne masterclasses, judges wine contests, and hosts champagne tasting events. To support women in the male-dominated wine industry, she only uses champagnes made by

women and only takes guests to visit champagne houses where women play an important role. She has been mentioned in Le Monde, New York Times, and Paris Match. She was also voted “Best Wine Tasting in Paris” by Expatriates Magazine and “Best Wine Experience in Paris” by Travel and Hospitality Awards. She is currently researching the role of women in the history of Champagne for a book project.



Matt Murray joined the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Trade Policy and Negotiations in September 2020. In that capacity, he leads four offices that oversee the State Department’s engagement to open new markets, resolve trade disputes, protect intellectual property rights, and promote agricultural innovation to benefit all Americans. Prior to this assignment, he was the Economic Minister Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, China. He also has served as Economic Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Canberra, Australia. Matt previously worked in Washington, DC, as Director of the 24/7 Watch in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research and as Special Assistant to the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment. His earlier overseas postings included assignments in Shanghai, Beijing, Dar es Salaam, and New Delhi. Matt joined the Foreign Service in 1998 and is a member of the Senior Foreign Service. He has master’s degrees from the U.S. Army War College and the University of Pittsburgh and a bachelor’s degree from Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland.