



## Hudson Valley Wine Competition Judges September 8, 2012

Hudson Valley Wine Festival / Dutchess County Fairgrounds



**Christopher Matthews**, a Manhattan-based media, communications and public affairs specialist, is also an independent wine writer, consultant and educator.

Matthews is the wine and spirits columnist for *New York Law Journal Magazine*. From wine and spirits, to beer, sake and cider, his "In Good Spirits" column, which he has penned since 2004, covers a range of libations. He has also written about food + drink for *epicurious.com* and *Kitchen and Cook*, a monthly magazine published by the Culinary Institute of America until 2006.

From 2000 to 2006, Matthews worked as a consultant, advising on wine selection, marketing strategy and education, for *is-wine*, a boutique wine shop (then) located in Manhattan's East Village (now in the West Village), featuring affordable, quality wines. In wine education venues, he has conducted tastings for corporate and private clients.

Matthews studied wine at the International Wine Center in New York, where he received the Wine and Spirit Education Trust's Advanced Certificate with Distinction in December 1998. He is also a member of the Wine Media Guild of New York.

At his day job, Matthews is a press and public affairs officer for the European Commission's Delegation to the UN in New York. Previously, he worked as a European editor for The Economist Magazine Group, as an Adjunct Professor in International Business at Pace University's Lubin School of Business and for the Chief Economist of Adam Opel AG in Rueselsheim, Germany. He speaks fluent German and basic French.



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**Bob Brink** – Bob Brink, currently the Fine Wines Manager at Arlington Wine & Liquor Store in Poughkeepsie, has been in the wine industry since 1995. Bob began his career in wine working for Burgundy Wine Company in New York City. While there, Bob studied wine at Wine & Spirits Education Trust, earning his Higher Certification in 1998. After moving to the Hudson Valley, Bob continued to study wine and traveled to the major growing regions in France, Germany, Spain and California. Today, Bob is the chief wine buyer for Arlington Wine & Liquor. Bob also is a free-lance wine educator, offering wine classes for private and corporate events. He recently completed a series of wine columns for Southern Dutchess News. You can currently see Bob conducting wine pairing demonstrations at Locust Grove, the Samuel Morse estate, as part of their Sunset Sensations series.



**Steven Kolpan** is a Professor of Wine Studies at The Culinary Institute of America (CIA), and holds the Charmer Sunbelt Endowed Chair for Wines and Spirits. He teaches Wine Studies, a course emphasizing a country-by-country and region-by-region approach to wine. Students learn about the theory of matching wine with food in a professional environment, as well as the service and marketing of wines and the criteria by which they are evaluated: appearance, aroma and bouquet, and taste. Steven also teaches Advanced Wine Studies, which focuses on enhanced tasting skills (including blind tasting) and food pairings, as well as an in-depth approach to the world wine market.



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Steven is co-author (with CIA professors Brian Smith and Michael Weiss of *Exploring Wine*, Completely Revised 3rd Edition (Wiley, 2010), the textbook used in both Wine Studies classes, as well as in dozen of other academic and professional wine courses. *Exploring Wine*, which has sold more than 125,000 copies was nominated as Best Wine and Spirits Book by the James Beard Foundation (1st edition, 1997), and the International Association of Culinary Professionals (IACP) as Best Beverage Book (3rd edition, 2011).

Steven is also the co-author (with Brian Smith and Michael Weiss) of *WineWise: Your Complete Guide to Understanding, Selecting, and Enjoying Wine* (Wiley, 2008). *WineWise* is a book for wine consumers, from novices to connoisseurs, and features a guide to more than 500 bargain wines. In May 2009, *WineWise* won both the coveted James Beard Foundation Award for Best Beverage Book of the Year and the Georges Duboeuf Wine Book of the Year Award.

Steven is the sole author of the book, *A Sense of Place* (Routledge; foreword by Francis Ford Coppola), a history of California's Niebaum-Coppola Winery (now Rubicon Estate) that received the prestigious Versailles Award for Best American Wine Book in 2000.

Steven is the writer and the wine choices for *Italian Cooking at Home* (Wiley, 2011), with recipes by CIA chef-instructors Gianni Scappin and Alberto Vanoli, and photographs by Francesco Tonelli.

In 2007, Professor Kolpan was named Wine Educator of the Year by the European Wine Council (an honor he shares with Michael Weiss). A Certified Wine Educator (C.W.E.), Steven joined the CIA faculty in 1986.

Steven Kolpan is the wine columnist for Salon.com and is the wine columnist and contributing editor for *The Valley Table*. Steven has also written for *Wine Report*, *Santé*, *The Financial Times*, *Fine Cooking*, *Real Simple*, *Wine Spectator*, and *Wine & Spirits* magazine. His professional experience includes: sommelier and maître d'hôtel at the Depuy Canal House, in High Falls, NY; consultant, sommelier, and manager at the 1820 House, Stone Ridge, NY; wine and food consultant for the Roger Smith Hotel in New York City, Gigi Trattoria, Rhinebeck, NY, and Cucina in Woodstock, NY.

Steven is a graduate of the State University of New York at New Paltz and the illycaffè University of Coffee in Trieste, Italy, and is also certified as a professional olive oil taster (by the International Olive Oil Council, chartered by the United Nations). His art works (video and multimedia) have been shown in more than 100 museums, galleries, and universities, including one-artist exhibitions at The Fort Lauderdale Museum of Art and The Museum of Modern Art in New York City.



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**Bill Rattner** - has been involved professionally in wine and food as a Sommelier/Restaurant Manager, a wine writer, and a wine educator for quite a few vintages now. In his long-time role as Wine Director for the Xaviar's Restaurant Group, Billy educates the staff and directs wine service for each property in the group and is currently developing the wine program for Peter Kelly's much-anticipated Xaviar's-on-the-Hudson in Yonkers, NY. The Xaviar's Restaurant Group is comprised of some of the most renowned and acclaimed wine-destination restaurants in New York State: Xaviar's at Piermont, The Freelance Cafe & Wine Bar and Restaurant X & Bully Boy Bar have all received popular praise and the industry's most coveted awards and accolades which include The New York Times' highest rating (Extraordinary), The Mobil Travel Guide Four Star Award, The DiRoNA Award, Wine Spectator's "Best of Award of Excellence", Zagat's Survey (29 out of 30). Billy designs and manages these wine programs with an eye towards making the grape accessible and yum-inspiringly enjoyable for every level of wine drinker - from the "white zinfandel convert" to the diehard collector. He has been known to say, "Wine can be serious, wine can be fun – but it should always be seriously fun."



**Ramon Mira de Orduña** A native of Europe, Ramón Mira de Orduña has lived and worked in New Zealand and Canada before coming to the Finger Lakes in 2007. As Associate Professor of Enology at Cornell University, he researches wine yeast and bacteria and teaches Winemaking Theory and Practice.

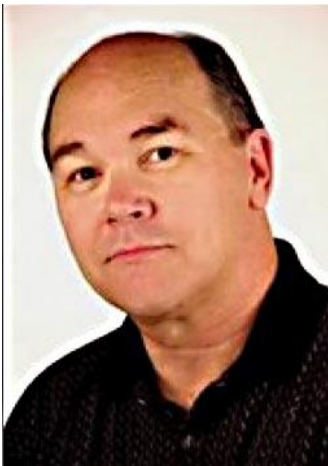


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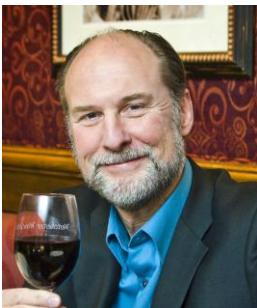
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**Stephanie Mira de Orduña** is of Spanish-French origin and has lived and experienced the wine industries of Europe, New Zealand and Northern America. She is a multi-lingual translator for enological literature, WSET certified, and a wine buyer.



**Bill Dowd** spent more than four decades in daily journalism as a writer and senior editor, retiring in 2006 as the Associate Editor of the Albany (NY) Times Union. Since then he has expanded his longtime writing on wines and spirits, developing "Dowd's Guides" ([billdowd.com](http://billdowd.com)), a portfolio of online sites dealing with food, drink and destinations. Bill has judged numerous wine and spirit competitions, and his work has appeared in print and online in 24 countries. His book "Barrels & Drams: The History of Whisk(e)y in Jiggers and Shots" will be published this fall by Sterling Publications of New York.



**Ned Towle** Ned Towle is founder and Director of the Westchester Wine School located in Westchester County, NY. He is certified as a Wine Educator by the Society of



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Wine Educators and as a Wine Judge by the American Wine Society. Now in its 8<sup>th</sup> year, the Westchester Wine School offers wine appreciation and certification classes, wine and food pairing dinners, as well as private and corporate events. Ned has worked in many aspects of wine growing and wine making at two chateaus in southwestern France, and he has also worked in the Manhattan wine retail business. His website is [www.westchesterwineschool.com](http://www.westchesterwineschool.com) and his Facebook page is at <http://on.fb.me/WestchesterWineSchool>.



**Stephen Carrizzo's** career in the wine industry grew out of his love of wine and its history, culture, and relationship to the earth. After he began collecting wines, he first worked in the wine business in the late 1970s at a retailer that offered one of the largest selections of NY State wines then available. He has traveled to many of the world's top wine regions tasting wines at the source, for business and pleasure, and he started a website, [www.winephilosopher.com](http://www.winephilosopher.com) to share his own perspectives about the connections between wine, art, and philosophy. His work in the wine trade has been in the retail, wholesale, winery, and importing segments of the business. While working as a sales representative for a major wine wholesaler he provided consulting services to restaurants. He also organizes wine and food pairing dinners, taught classes and led tastings. He is currently leading ongoing design, development and expansion of the e-commerce department at one of the region's leading wine retailers, Mid Valley Wine & Liquors in Newburgh, NY, where the website is drawing clients from around the US and the world – see [www.midvalleywine.com](http://www.midvalleywine.com) He is also a partner in C&F Productions, a video company specializing in wine videos.





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**Diane Letulle** has been writing [Wine Lover's Journal](#) for over five years. Her blog takes readers along on journeys through the vineyards of France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Austria, Hungary, Republic of Georgia, United States, and Canada. She writes wine columns for [Examiner.com](#) and contributes wine and travel stories to various online publications. Diane earned the Advanced Certificate with distinction from the Wine and Spirits Education Trust, spoke at the 2012 International Wine Tourism Conference, and teaches wine classes in New Jersey. She is writing a wine and travel memoir, and will have a travel story featured in an upcoming anthology: *Leave the Iguana, Take the Mascara: Funny Travel Stories and Strange Packing Tips*.



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**Nicholas Paris**, Nicholas Paris began his career in the wine industry in 1999 as a salesman for Zachys Wine and Liquor store in Scarsdale, New York. Shortly thereafter, he became Zachys' auction coordinator and a wine specialist at Christie's auction house in New York City. Since then, he has held a variety of sales positions in the wine business in retail and on-premise at the store, wholesale and winery levels. He currently resides in Connecticut and is responsible for the E. & J. Gallo Winery's public relations efforts for the northeastern United States.

During his wine career, Nicholas has been very active in education. He has taught at the university level and trained and educated employees for dozens of large and small restaurants, hotels, country clubs, casinos, retailers and wholesalers. Nicholas holds the prestigious CSS, CSW and CWE certifications from the Society of Wine Educators and the Advanced Sommelier degree from the Court of Master Sommeliers. He has visited many of the world's most prestigious wine regions and speaks several languages proficiently.





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**Chris Gerling** - Chris Gerling is the Extension Associate for Enology for New York State. He was previously assistant winemaker at Anthony Road Wine Company in Penn Yan, NY. Chris worked at NYSAES from 1999-2005 as a technician in the departments of Horticultural Sciences and Food Science and Technology. While studying for an MS in food science, which he received in 2007, he served as a teaching assistant for the course Understanding Wine and Beer. Chris earned a BS in communications from Cornell, in 1999.



**F. Paul Pacult** is publisher/editor of *F. Paul Pacult's Spirit Journal*; contributing editor for *Beverage Dynamics*; and creator of the groundbreaking iWhiskey App. Through Spirit Journal, Inc., he consults widely to the beverage alcohol industry. He also hosts the critically acclaimed monthly tasting series in New York City, the Masters Series at Keens Steakhouse, now in its 16<sup>th</sup> year. He is a founding partner of the award-winning training company Beverage Alcohol Resource, LLC (BAR) and a founding partner in the newly formed beverage competition company Ultimate Beverage Challenge LLC.



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He is the author of five books: *Kindred Spirits 2: 2,400 Reviews of Whiskey, Brandy, Vodka, Tequila, Rum, Gin, and Liqueurs from F. Paul Pacult's Spirit Journal 2000-2007* (Spirit Journal, Inc., 2008); *A Double Scotch: How Chivas Regal and The Glenlivet Became Global Icons* (Wiley, 2005), the best-selling *American Still Life: The Jim Beam Story and the Making of the World's #1 Bourbon* (Wiley, 2003) as well as *Kindred Spirits* (Hyperion, 1997) and *The Beer Essentials* (Hyperion, 1997).

From 1982 to 2009, he contributed to an array of publications, including *Playboy*, *Wine & Spirits*, *Cheers*, *Connoisseur*, *MarketWatch*, *Travel & Leisure*, *Men's Journal*, the *New York Times Magazine*, *Delta Sky*, and *Wine Enthusiast Magazine*. He produced and co-hosted two nationally syndicated radio shows, *The Happy Hour with Paul Pacult and Gary Regan* (1997-1999) and *Paul Pacult's Good Life* (2000) and has appeared in two landmark History Channel documentaries. For a decade starting in 2000, he was judging director of the San Francisco World Spirits Competition.

Paul won an award for wine journalism excellence in 2001 from The Academy of Wine Communications. He is the only journalist in the world to concurrently be a life member and Master of *Keepers of the Quaich* whisky society (Edinburgh, Scotland), a life member of Kentucky's *Bourbon Hall of Fame*, and a life member of France's *Company of Armagnac Musketeers*.



**Chris Gerling** - Chris Gerling is the Extension Associate for Enology for New York State. He was previously assistant winemaker at Anthony Road Wine Company in Penn Yan, NY. Chris worked at NYSAES from 1999-2005 as a technician in the departments of Horticultural Sciences and Food Science and Technology. While studying for an MS in food science, which he received in 2007, he served as a teaching assistant for the course Understanding Wine and Beer. Chris earned a BS in communications from Cornell, in 1999.



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Dr. John E. Hudelson is assistant professor of Global Wine Studies at Central Washington University's World Wine Program in Ellensburg, Washington. John has worked as a Viticulture researcher at Cornell University's Agricultural Experimental Station, served as V.P. of Operations for the Hudson Valley Wine and Grape Association, been the wine chemist of a large U.S. winery, and taught at several colleges in the Northeast. He is the author of *Wine Faults: Causes, Effects and Cures* published by the Wine Appreciation Guild which was deemed "One of Fourteen Cool Products" by Wine Business Monthly Magazine in 2011. John has been a vineyardist for the 24 years and is co-owner of North River Methode Champenois Wines. Having lived and worked in Europe, Africa, South America, and the United States, John has acquired a global view of the world, and of wine and the wine industry.