



OLD MUTUAL TROPHY WINE SHOW 2018

JUDGES' PROFILES

SHOW CHAIRMAN:

Michael Fridjhon

Chairman of the judges at the Old Mutual Trophy Wine Show. Author, co-author and contributor to a number of wine books including *The Oxford Companion to Wine*, *The Global Wine Encyclopaedia* and *Platter's South African Wine Guide*. Recipient of the Chevalier de l'Ordre du Merite Agricole (France). Judge at numerous competitions including the Australian National Wine Show, the Six Nations Wine Challenge (Australia) as well as benchmark tastings in France, the United States, Chile and South Africa. First international co-chairman of the International Wine Challenge (2007). Visiting Professor of Wine Business at the University of Cape Town's Graduate School of Business and head of the Wine Judging Academy run in association with the University of Cape Town's Graduate School of Business. Winner of the Louis Roederer International Wine Columnist of the Year award (2012).

INTERNATIONAL JUDGES:

Isa Bal MS (United Kingdom)

Turkish-born Master Sommelier and former Head Sommelier at The Fat Duck in Berkshire, a 3-star Michelin restaurant owned by celebrity chef Heston Blumenthal, where he worked for 13 years. Started his wine career in 1999 as a *commis* sommelier at The Vineyard Hotel at Stockcross near Newbury. Has competed and judged in several competitions, and won the Best Sommelier of Europe title in 2008. Currently focuses on consultancy contracts and is a member of the board of The Court of Master Sommeliers.

Charles Chevallier (France)

Until his retirement in 2016, director of properties, viticulture, oenology and public relations for the Domaines Barons de Rothschild Lafite group, and now its group ambassador and senior advisor. Born in 1953 to a wine-producing family with estates in Muscat de Lunel and Côteaux de Languedoc. A graduate in Agricultural Science at the University of Toulouse (PURPAN), he has lived in Bordeaux since 1973 when he was appointed as a trainee at Château La Tour de By. After a three-year tenure as technical advisor to the Cooperatives of the Loire for Côteaux du Layon and Saumur, he joined Domaines Barons de Rothschild in 1983. After working at Château Rieussec in Sauternes, he was appointed technical director and estate manager for Château Lafite Rothschild – the leading First Growth estate of the Medoc in the 1855 Bordeaux Classification – as well as the other Rothschild properties (Duhart Milon in Pauillac, Evangile in Pomerol, Rieussec in Sauternes and Aussieres in Corbieres).

Debra Meiburg MW (Hong Kong)

A Hong Kong resident for nearly 30 years, Master of Wine, award-winning author, journalist, TV personality, international speaker and a global authority on the Asian wine market. Founding director of the MWM Wine School, Meiburg Wine Media (Asia's leading wine marketing and events agency and education provider) and the Cathay Pacific Hong Kong International Wine and Spirit Competition, the first truly pan-Asian wine competition. Other key roles include wine consultant for Cathay Pacific Airways and Cathay Dragon, as well as Chair of the Education Committee for the Institute of Masters of Wine. Old Mutual Trophy Wine Show judge in 2011.

SOUTH AFRICAN JUDGES:

Narina Cloete

Winemaker at Blaauwklippen Agricultural Estate. BSc Honours Agriculture (Oenology) *cum laude* graduate of Stellenbosch University. Completed harvests at Glen Carlou, Dornier, AA Badenhorst Family Wines and Stellenzicht. Joined Quoin Rock Winery in 2008 as assistant winemaker and was winemaker there from 2010 until 2014. Served on the judging panels of South Africa's Young Wine Show, FNB Sauvignon Blanc Top 10, Cape Vintners Classification, Blaauwklippen Blending Competition and Veritas Awards. Distinction graduate of the Michael Fridjhon Wine Judging Academy in 2013 and attended the advanced Wine Judging Academy in 2014. Trophy Wine Show associate judge in 2013, 2014 and 2016, and judge in 2017.

Heidi Duminy CWM

Cape Wine Master and wine communications specialist recognised for her particular expertise in Champagne and sparkling wine. Formerly group communications manager for DGB, brand manager for Veuve Clicquot and Krug, and trade marketing manager of the LVMH portfolio of Champagnes and spirits. Currently group marketing manager for Meridian Holdings. Convener of the Amorim Cap Classique Challenge in 2017, chaired Classic Wine Magazine's Cap Classique panel and has judged sparkling wine for the Veritas Awards since 2011. Associate judge at the Trophy Wine Show in 2012, 2014 and 2015, and judge in 2016 and 2017. Lectures for the Cape Wine Academy. Writes and presents under HeidiVine Communications. Distinction graduate of the Michael Fridjhon Wine Judging Academy in 2011 and Advanced Wine Judging Academy attendee in 2014.

Christian Eedes

Co-owner and editor of Winemag.co.za. Freelance wine writer contributing to Decanter (UK) and other titles on an occasional basis. Completed a small-scale winemaking programme run by Stellenbosch University's Department of Viticulture and Oenology and is a graduate of the inaugural Michael Fridjhon Wine Judging Academy. Further experience includes judging for the Old Mutual Trophy Wine Show (2007 to 2014, 2016, 2017) and Platter's South African Wine Guide in addition to various other local and international competitions.

Alexandra McFarlane

Winemaker at Druk My Niet and former viticulturist at De Toren Private Cellar. Graduated from the University of Stellenbosch with a BSc in Viticulture and Oenology (2010). Awarded Dombeya Scholarship to work 2011 Australian harvest in Margaret River and Barossa Valley, returning to South Africa to take up the position of assistant winemaker at Mulderbosch. Further international experience includes stints in the Napa Valley (2012) and a return to Australia (2013) for seasons at Kalleske Wines in Barossa Valley and Henschke Wines in Eden Valley. Also worked at Dombeya and Waterkloof, and more recently as junior winemaker at Spier. Distinction graduate of the Michael Fridjhon Wine Judging Academy in 2015. Trophy Wine Show associate judge in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

Nkulu Mkhwanazi

Wine Brand Ambassador for Creation Wines and representative for Reciprocal Wines and Riedel. Founded

the Shamase Wine Club (formerly JHB Wine Series and 031 Wine Society). Highway Wine Society Chairman since 2014. Judge at the RECM 10 Year Old Wine Awards in 2013. Graduated with distinction at the Michael Fridjhon Wine Judging Academy in 2011 and attended the Advanced Wine Judging Academy in 2014. Achieved certificate in small scale winemaking from the University of Stellenbosch in 2015 and WSET Level 3 in 2016. Trophy Wine Show associate judge from 2011 to 2014 and judge from 2015 to 2017.

James Pietersen

Head of sales and SA portfolio manager for Wine Cellar fine wine merchants and cellarers. A former wine buyer for the Vineyard Connection. Graduated with distinction at the Michael Fridjhon Wine Judging Academy in 2007 and attended the Advanced Wine Judging Academy in 2014. Roving chair for Platter's South African Wine Guide and a panellist for Winemag.co.za. More than 10 years of judging experience at various competitions including South Africa's Chenin Blanc Challenge and Sauvignon Blanc Top 10. Previous board member of SASA (South African Sommelier Association). Trophy Wine Show judge in 2008, 2009, from 2012 to 2015 and in 2017.

ASSOCIATE JUDGES:

The Old Mutual Trophy Wine Show draws upon several of South Africa's new-generation winemakers, all of whom have appropriate tasting experience. They are provided with the opportunity of working in a rigorous show-judging environment and learning from the international and local tasters to whom they are seconded. Associate judges work in the tasting room with the main panel and are invited to participate in the discussion, however their scores are not included in the final tally.

Murray Barlow

Cellarmaster at Rustenberg Wines, which his family owns and runs. Read his Masters in Oenology at the University of Adelaide in Australia, graduating in 2011 Cum Laude. Graduated with distinction at the Michael Fridjhon Wine Judging Academy in 2015. Won the title of Diner's Club Young Winemaker of the Year twice, the first person in the history of the competition to do so. Trophy Wine Show associate judge in 2015.

Ndaba Dube

Joined the Vineyard Hotel in Cape Town as a barman in 2009 and quickly identified wine as a particular interest. Worked his way up the ranks to become a sommelier and maître d', and is now a senior restaurant manager overseeing the hotel's wine portfolio and events. He has a B.Bus Admin degree in Finance & Sociology from UNISA, a PG Dip certificate in Wine Business Management (short course) from the UCT Graduate School of Business and has completed WSET 1 to 3 and Cape Wine Academy courses. Michael Fridjhon Wine Judging Academy graduate (2018).

Eben February

Brought up in the winelands but didn't have the opportunity to learn about wine until he was given the chance to help out as a runner at the South African Airways tasting which was held at Nederburg in 2010. He developed a passion for wine, and in 2013 took his first wine course – 'Introduction to Wines' – through the Cape Wine Academy, followed shortly afterwards by the 'Certificate Wine Course' and later completing the

Academy's 'Wines of the World'. His career began in 2012 at Delaire Graff Wine Estate, where he was a wine tutor for two years. In 2014 he joined Jordan Wine Estate as tasting room manager. He attended the Wine Forum which was held at Jordan, presented by Jacques Steyn (CWM), and is currently enjoying his WSET Level 3 studies. A graduate of the Michael Fridjhon Wine Judging Academy in 2018.

Spencer Fondaumiere

Kenyan-born operations manager and sommelier at the Burrata, Bocca and Open Door restaurants. He began his career in hospitality at chef school and, an entrepreneur at heart, started a catering company from his mother's kitchen, which he ran for seven years. Has studied through the Cape Wine Academy and WSET and became the first sommelier in Africa to be certified through the South African Sommelier Association (SASA). A Michael Fridjhon Wine Judging Academy graduate in 2016. Trophy Wine Show associate judge in 2016 and 2017.

Patson Mathonsi

Eat Out and Mercedes-Benz Sommelier of the Year in 2014. From coffee shop to Italian bistro, his career in fine wine progressed with his appointment as head sommelier at DW11-13 Restaurant in Johannesburg and as sales representative at the Reciprocal Wine Company since 2015. He has completed the Cape Wine Academy Certificate in Wine and WSET Levels 1, 2 and 3. Member of the Hugues Lepin Sommelier and Wine Academy. Michael Fridjhon Wine Judging Academy graduate (2016). Trophy Wine Show associate judge in 2016 and 2017.

Debi van Flymen CWM

Owner of DvF Wine Distributors and wine events company GrapeSlave, a Cape Wine Master and lecturer for both the WSET and Cape Wine Academy. Currently a British Master of Wine student. Inducted into the Ordre des Coteaux de Champagne at the inaugural African Chapitre Gala. Opened bespoke catering company Culinary Productions in 2004. A writer and regular contributor to wine podcasts and radio programmes. Graduate of the 2016 Michael Fridjhon Wine Judging Academy and Diner's Club Winemaker of the Year judge in 2016. Trophy Wine Show associate judge in 2017.

Ends