



Media Release

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Leading wine experts descend on Nelson

Some of the world's top wine experts have arrived in Nelson to attend two days of immersion in the New Zealand wine industry.

Leading international sommeliers have been brought to New Zealand for a wine experience as part of Sommit™, an event held by New Zealand Winegrowers.

The Nelson-based Sommit™ will be held on 1st and 2nd of February with 18 international sommeliers attending. It encompasses two wine dinners and an all-day masterclass, which is a deep dive into New Zealand wine celebrating its lesser known aspects.

Hosted by Master Sommelier Cameron Douglas and Master of Wine Stephen Wong, topics covered include aged Riesling, orange wine, smaller plantings, alternative expressions of Sauvignon and Pinot Gris, and regional expressions of Pinot Noir and Syrah.

New Zealand Winegrowers International Marketing Manager Chris Yorke says Sommit™ is an outstanding way to showcase New Zealand wine to an influential international audience.

“Previous Sommit™ events have seen a marked increase in listings of New Zealand wines in top international restaurants. New Zealand Winegrowers is thrilled to be hosting some of the world's top sommeliers again.”

Attending Nelson's Sommit™ event are:

Australia

Emmanuel Cadieu: Head Sommelier - Merivale (est. restaurant), NSW

Morgan Golledge: Head Sommelier - Blackbird Bar & Grill, QLD

Richard Healy: Wine Director NSW & QLD - Rockpool Dining Group, NSW

Sarah Andrew: Sommelier, Consultant & Buyer - Selador Wines, VIC

Canada

Jascha Baraness: Senior Manager, Restaurant and Beverage Services - 360 The Restaurant at the CN Tower, Toronto

China

Steve Li: Assistant Manager - Yong Yi Ting, Mandarin Oriental Pudong, Shanghai

Ireland

Jurica Gojevic: Head Sommelier - Adare Hotel, Limerick

Macau

Han Yew Kong: Chief Sommelier - Galaxy Macau

Singapore

Alvin Gho: Co-Founder - Wine RVLТ, Beverage Director - The American Club

Britt Ng: Hotel Sommelier - Shangri-La

Sweden

Fredrik Lindfors: Head Sommelier - Grand Hotel, Stockholm

UK

James Devereux: Head Sommelier - Manchester House, Manchester

Stefan Kobald: Head Sommelier - Social Company, London

USA

Billy Nordmeier: Director of Hospitality - The Patio Restaurant Group, San Diego

Hai Tran: Beverage Director & Sommelier - Rittenhouse Hotel, Philadelphia

Keith Nelson: Beverage Director - Tao Group, New York

Lauren Collins Daddona: Wine Director - Les Sablons, Cambridge

New Zealand

Cameron Douglas MS: Writer, Consultant, Wine Judge & Educator - SommNZ, Auckland

Stephen Wong MW: Consultant Sommelier - Wine Sentience, Co-founder - Budburst, Wellington

Anna Krykunivsky: Group Sommelier - Imperium Group, Queenstown



Image: A previous Sommit™ event

Ends

- New Zealand wine exports have reached a new record high of \$1.66 billion, up 6% in June year end 2017 according to New Zealand Winegrowers.
- New Zealand wine is exported to more than 90 countries and is New Zealand's 5th largest export good.

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