Jesse P. Rodriguez, M.Ed.

D WSET, CWE, Advanced Sommelier

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Profile Summary

Passionate and driven professional with over 12 years of experience in the wine industry, including restaurant & hospitality service, sales, portfolio management, and education; operational expert with proven effectiveness to multitask in competitive, high-impact, and fast-paced environment; proven track record of success in motivating personnel to perform at their best; entrepreneurial spirit with expertise in all areas of wine, including regions of the world, winemaking techniques, grape varietals, as well as proper storage, handling, and service.

Core Competencies

- Wine list development and cellar management
- Training, leadership and education of staff
- Fine dining service and quality assurance
- Private and corporate events
- Speaking engagements and special appearances
- Private cellar creation and council
- Entrepreneur

Personal Career Highlights

- Established my own wine consulting and education business, **Kaizen Wine Inc.** in 2008
- Become the sole proprietor of négociant label, **Nulli Secundus Selections** in 2014
- Recipient of one only five as *The Best New Sommeliers of America* in 2007 by **Wine & Spirits Magazine**
- Five time recipient of *Best Sommelier in San Diego County* in 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011 and 2013 by **Ranch and Coast Magazine**
- Three time recipient of *Best Sommelier in San Diego County* in 2008, 2010 and 2011 by **San Diego Magazine**
- Voted one of the industries up-and-comers in 2008 by **Santé Magazine**
- Recipient of *Best Sommelier in San Diego & Orange Counties* award in 2009 by **Tasting Panel Magazine**
- Recipient of *Rising Star Sommelier for Southern California* award in 2010 by **StarChefs**
- Became an adjunct professor of wine studies at the **San Diego State University** in 2011
- Voted *Most Inspirational Leader for San Diego County* in 2013 by **San Diego Magazine**
- Finalist for *Latinos Making a Difference*, Inaugural Awards presented by **San Diego Magazine** in 2013
- Became a member of Sir Peter Michael's Entourage Tasting Panel in 2011
- Became Production Director of **SommCon USA** in 2015

Professional Awards

- Best New Wine List in America, **Food & Wine Magazine**, 2007
- Best of Award of Excellence, **Wine Spectator Magazine**, 2007 – 2012
- Grand Award, **Wine Spectator Magazine**, 2007 – 2012, 2014
- Best Wine List for Resort / Hotel Fine Dining Restaurant in California, **Santé Magazine**, 2007 – 2008
- Best German and Austrian Wine List in America, **Forbes Magazine**, 2008
- Best Restaurant Wine Program in North America, **Santé Magazine**, 2010

Work Experience

- **SOMMCON,** San Diego, CA — May 2015 - Present
  - Service Director
- **La Fête du Champagne,** New York, NY — November 2014 - Present
  - Sommelier
- **Montage Resort**, Laguna Beach, CA — February 2013 – Present
  - Sommelier, Studio Restaurant
- **San Diego State University**, San Diego, CA — January 2011 - Present
  - Adjunct Professor, College of Extended Studies
  - Instructor, Osher Institute
- **Wine Spectator's New York Wine Experience**, New York, NY — October 2008 - Present
  - Assistant Service Director and Sommelier
- **Kaizen Wine Inc.**, Laguna Niguel, CA — January 2008 – Present
  - Proprietor
- **Daniel Johnnes, La Paulée**, San Francisco, CA/ New York, NY — March 2007 - Present
  - Sommelier Captain
- **The Grand Del Mar Resort**, San Diego, CA — July 2006 – February 2013
  - Wine Director
- **The French Laundry**, Yountville, CA — September 2003 – July 2006
  - Head Sommelier
- **ZD Wines**, Rutherford, CA — February 2003 – August 2003
  - Director of Sales, California
- **Alliance Beverage Distributing Company**, Phoenix, AZ — February 2002 – December 2002
  - Estate Manager

Education

- **Court of Master Sommeliers**, Cincinnati, OH — August 2008
  - Advanced Sommelier Certificate
  - Passed Master Sommelier Service and Theory Exams — May 2015
- **Institute of Masters of Wine**, London, UK — October 2015-Present
  - 1st Year MW Student
- **Wine & Spirits Education Trust**, London, UK — January 2015
  - Wine & Spirits Diploma
- **Society of Wine Educators**, Washington, DC — March 2008
  - Certified Wine Educator
- **Arizona State University**, Tempe, AZ — September 1997 – January 2003
  - Bachelor of Arts, History/Anthropology
  - Master Degree, Cum Laude, Education/History