



LARRY STONE Master Sommelier



Within a few months of becoming the ninth Master Sommelier in the United States, Larry Stone became the first American to win the prestigious Grand Prix de Sopexa for the title of the Best International Sommelier in French Wines in Paris. He continued as a restaurateur and sommelier for the next 20 years, opening the Four Seasons Hotel in Chicago, and creating a corporate wine program. As General Manager and Sommelier of Charlie Trotter's Restaurant from 1989 to 1993, Larry helped to bring it to world prominence at the side of its talented chef/owner.

Larry relocated to San Francisco to open Rubicon Restaurant with New York restaurateur Drew Nieporent and Chef Traci des Jardin. Partners with them were Robert De Niro, Robin Williams and Francis Ford Coppola. There they established a restaurant with a wine program that attracted and trained some of the best young sommeliers in America. Recognizing the talent of a young couple, he also was responsible for hiring Stuart Brioza and Nicole Krasinski for their first work in the Bay Area.

From 1994 to 2008 Rubicon and Larry earned many awards, among them a Michelin Star, the Ivy Award from Restaurants and Institutions, a Silver Spoon from Food and Wine, James Beard Foundation's Who's Who, Wine Spectator's Grand Award for 12 years running, and two JBF Outstanding Wine Service Awards.

In 2001, Larry became a board member of Niebaum-Coppla Estate Winery, and then in 2006 its General Manager. By this time he had already gained experience with several winemaking projects. His first winery, in 1993, for which he was responsible for production, was Deux Chapeaux with friend Daniel Johnnes. Then he created Sirita wines, named after his daughter. He helped to found a successful winery project called Evening Land Vineyards, and in 2010 became its President.

In 2012, Larry returned to Chicago to work with Chef Trotter for the last five months of his groundbreaking restaurant's existence, and he began his association with Huneus Vintners.

He is concurrently developing Lingua Franca winery on a 150-acre vineyard in the Eola-Amity Hills of Oregon's Willamette Valley with Dominique Lafon as the consulting winemaker. The winery should be constructed in time for the harvest of 2016.

Apart from his nearly all-consuming, life-long passion for wine, Larry is an avid skier, cyclist, and amateur photographer. He was most recently featured in the August 2014 edition of Arts Culinaire, a legendary culinary arts magazine (www.getartc.com).