



## *bimpoc wine symposium*

*Access to wine education is a powerful dynamic*

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Becky Wasserman was a community leader. For over 40 years, she was one of the most influential French wine exporters. She was interested in wines that were ambitious, proactive, and amusingly creative. She entrusted her growers—domaines like Michel Lafarge, Denis Bachelet, and Frédéric Mugnier have been with her since the beginning. Becky believed that wine fulfills the desire to connect beyond the bottle. It is one thing to taste a wine on its own and understand its muse, but it is not its only destination—It has always been a part of society, just like the array of cultures and identities that shape our world.

Building on the invaluable source of inspiration and connection with our winegrowers, we created the Becky Wasserman BIMPOC symposium (*Black, Indigenous, Multiracial, People of Color*) as an effort to provide an accessible opportunity for motivated and curious wine professionals.

We will select four BIMPOC wine professionals based in America to be a part of a cohort that will travel, live, and engage in a week of learning with various vigneron across Burgundy. We invite you to encourage participation from your staff and community members of color as we continue to build a relational bridge that strengthens trust and advances inclusion that positively contributes to our wine industry.

## *five days in burgundy*

*Wine is more than a commodity to us at Becky Wasserman & Co— it's about the relationship between people and land.*

**[2027 applications open now!](#)**



## program directors



### **paul wasserman | co-director + us sales**

I was one year old when we moved from Philadelphia to Burgundy. The move wasn't for wine, but that's too long of a story for this bio. I learned English and French simultaneously and have felt torn between two cultures ever since. I was four when I was first allowed to taste wine in a Burgundian cellar — Roulot's. To escape her failing marriage to my father, Becky founded her company when I was twelve. Overextended, she would ask me on occasion to translate for her customers in the cellars where I was invariably handed a wine glass. At seventeen, I stopped attending uni in Paris. With no plan B, Becky insisted I work for her. In my late twenties, I moved to Los Angeles with dreams of musical stardom. To make ends meet while I played bass in various bands, I took

an entry level position in a wine store, was a sales rep, became the French and German wine buyer for a great store, and wrote a wine column for an L.A. lifestyle magazine.

I returned to work for the family company in 2011 and relocated to Burgundy in 2017. I am the company's co-director now. My goal is to ensure it remains healthy and relevant while honoring Becky's unusual and extraordinary spirit, and without Wasserman heirs, for the company to be passed on to our wonderful team.

### **icy liu | domaine scouting, media, winegrower**

I was born and raised in Taipei, Taiwan and moved to the U.S. to attend Columbia University, where I studied Industrial Engineering and Economics. Disillusioned with finance after graduation, I followed my passion for food and wine, eventually relocating to Burgundy in 2018. I hold an Enology Diploma from the University of Burgundy, have worked in the vineyards and cellars of prominent domaines, and make my own wine in Burgundy.

I work with Burgundian importer Becky Wasserman & Co. and in the vines with Chanterêves during the growing season. In 2020, I launched Ungrafted,

a podcast about wine, humanity, and the planet, interviewing guests about the environmental and societal dimensions of wine. In January 2026, I organized an in-person farming conference in Burgundy. I founded Asian Wine Professionals and was named to Wine Enthusiast's 40 Under 40, and nominated as Emerging Talent in Wine by the International Wine and Spirit Competition (IWSC). I love travel, food, animals (especially dogs), documentaries / non fiction, and hip hop music. To motivate myself to read, I started the Direct Press Wine Book Club, where we read books about wine/agriculture/nature/underrepresented communities (anyone is welcome to join!).





### **danielle hammon | sales, communications**

I grew up in California's East Bay. I started getting very curious about wine in college, so while studying Psychology at UC Berkeley, I simultaneously began working at Donkey & Goat Winery—before I was even of legal drinking age! After backpacking through Europe following graduation, a 2009 harvest stint with Eric Texier in the Rhône Valley confirmed my passion for wine production.

Following Eric's advice, I then completed the BPREA (Viticulture/Enology) program in Beaune, France, while also interning with Domaine Henri Germain in Meursault. During this time, I met Becky Wasserman, who offered me an internship in 2011, and I've been a member of the BW&Co sales team ever since. How Burgundy and the wine world have changed over 15 years! I am deeply committed to sustainability and environmental stewardship, and outside of work I enjoy cooking and eating, travel, yoga, running, hiking, getting silly with my kids, dancing like no one's watching, and, of course, the harvest season.



### **ocean yap-powell | program advisor, wine consultant**

As a second generation Oregonian, I am from a family of voyagers—the Hawaiian navigators and the Norwegian vikings. The wine bug got me the summer I turned 21 in the Willamette Valley. I started working at a small vineyard the next day! From production, vineyard management, consulting, writing, volunteering, and working in wine retail and restaurants in Portland Oregon over 14 years, every step of my career in wine has been built through the curiosity to learn more. I have often been faced with discrimination, racism, and doubt which turns the pain inside into creating pathways and platforms that uplift priority

communities. With my degree in Sociology, I focus my lens on supporting BIMPOC wine professionals – centering on an equity, accessibility, and accountability continuum. As a cohort member of the BW&Co BIMPOC symposium 2023, this trip changed my life. It is my goal to continue to grow a highly interactive engagement that allows co-learning of all participants and the culture of Burgundy.

I love living in the Pacific Northwest, when it's not wine time, you can catch me rooting for the home team, playing golf, and exploring the land with my family.





### **soizic pinczon du sel | administration, logistics**

After 10 years in England (Cotswolds) working with horses I came back to Burgundy in 1994. I was born and bred on a dairy farm 30 mn from Beaune. I've been with BWCo for 30 years, starting as an intern back in 1995 after a short course at the local wine school (CFPPA). I was lucky enough to work for two amazing ladies, leaders in their own fields (horses and wine). I am now Director of Logistics and Admin, trying my best to get BWCo wines to you in the States, organizing everything between clients, growers and freightforwarders. Fun ! My passions, apart from horses, are armchair upholstery, architecture, gardens and nature in general. We only have one planet 🌍

I also love travelling, Europe mainly as I try to limit my carbon footprint. There are so many interesting places to discover. I like swapping homes, a great way to meet people and find out about their culture.



### **lizé aaron | general assistant, scheduling**

I was born and raised in Paarl, so being surrounded by vineyards is nothing new for this South African who settled in Beaune in 2002 !

I studied to be a pre-primary school teacher in Cape-Town, but got bitten by the travel bug while doing a sabbatical year in Europe after graduating. I became more interested in hospitality when I got back to South Africa. In my late 20's I went back to Europe to visit the families I worked as an « au pair » for while abroad, and then came back to Paarl where I met my french somm partner, at a Relais and Château restaurant where we both worked. In 2002, with our 3-month-old baby

we decided to settle in Beaune, where I studied tourism at the CFPPA (local wine school). I then got a job at the bookstore, L'Athenaeum, selling wines of historical domaines in Beaune. In 2008 a friend of a friend of a friend asked me if I wanted to work in exporting, because Becky Wasserman was looking for a new sales assistant. My boss at the time told me to go for it, she thought I would fit right in with the BW&Co team. She wasn't wrong. I had no experience in exporting, but it was love at first sight ! After the usual interview questions, Becky asked me if I liked food and wine, and with nothing to lose, I stood up, showing my voluptuous self, and asked them what they thought? The rest is history, they called me three hours later and asked me when I could start.

As you might have guessed by now, I love cooking and eating, and my partner loves pairing wine with my dishes. With our two adult children we love traveling, and going on hikes in wine regions in France, Italy, and Germany. Two of my biggest passions are reading and dancing. I have had no formal dance training, but I love to boogie with Danielle.