

SOMMFOUNDATION AWARDS THE THIRD ANNUAL DEBBIE LEWIS WOMEN IN WINE SCHOLARSHIP TO KRISTINA SAZAMA

SommFoundation congratulates Kristina Sazama, recipient of the 2022 Debbie Lewis Women in Wine Scholarship. Kristina has been awarded \$5000 to be used toward pursuing the Institute of Masters of Wine, Master of Wine Certification.



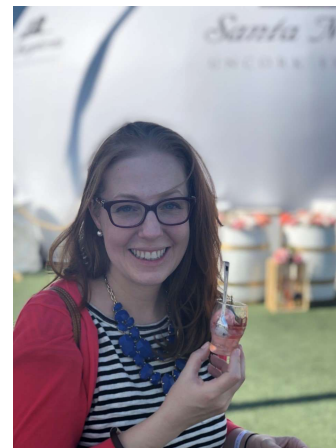
DEBBIE LEWIS

This scholarship was created to honor the life of Debbie Lewis. Debbie was the eldest of four daughters. She grew up in California's Central Valley, spending childhood summers at the family ranch, where they grew Bartlett pears and row crops. She eventually took over management of the ranch, worked as a kindergarten teacher, got into retail sales and then co-managed the oldest wine bar in San Francisco, The London Wine Bar. In the late 1970's Debbie met Randy Lewis at a wine tasting and they eventually married. In 1992, she and Randy co-founded Lewis Cellars. Together they built a legacy and in 2016, the Lewis 2013 Napa Cabernet was named "Wine of the Year" by Wine Spectator.

Debbie was the rock of her family and provided the steady hand that built Lewis Cellars. She was involved in every aspect of vineyard management, winemaking, sales, distribution, and she spent many days on the road, building relationships all over the country. Debbie had a life-long passion for mastering the business of wine and set an inspiring example of dedication and hard work to all those around her.

Kristina Sazama first discovered that wine makes everything better while entertaining clients on Wall Street. In 2008, after ditching a long career as a sell-side publishing analyst at JPMorgan, she began working with wine at Italian Wine Merchants.

As her wine career progressed, she served as the co-beverage director for Momofuku Ssäm Bar in New York City, then as the French portfolio manager at Skurnik Wines, followed by work with the Champagne houses of Billecart-Salmon and Lanson.



During this time, she studied for courses and certifications through the Court of Master Sommeliers, the Wine Scholar Guild, and the Society of Wine Educators. This was her version of being an athlete. She is most proud of competing the Wine & Spirits Education (WSET) curriculum, earning her Diploma in 2011. She has been an instructor for consumer wine classes at Astor Wine & Spirits and Brooklyn Winery and keeps herself sharp by teaching the WSET curriculum on a regular basis while she prepares for the Master of Wine Exams.

This incredible journey has allowed her to connect and network world-wide with professionals in all aspects of the wine industry. She feels very fortunate to have spent lots of time eating, drinking wine, and exploring some of the most beautiful places on earth. If you'd like to read about her adventures, you can find her posts online at TheThirstyRedhead.com.

Kristina currently works as the Wine Educator for Santa Margherita USA, developing tools that convey the story of their portfolio to internal, trade, and consumer audiences. She lives in Aventura, Florida. Follow Kristina on Instagram [@ThirstyRedhead](https://www.instagram.com/ThirstyRedhead)

SommFoundation's mission is to assist in the education and professional development of people working in the wine and spirits business. SommFoundation helps professionals develop their skills, knowledge, and competency through scholarships, mentorships, and enrichment opportunities.