

# BEST USA SOMMELIER ASSOCIATION

## **BUSA Announces 2024 Competition Schedule for U.S. Sommeliers**

KANSAS CITY, MO (**February 28, 2024**) – Best USA Sommelier Association (BUSA), the official U.S. member of the Association de la Sommellerie Internationale (ASI), is announcing the opening of the 2024 competition to select the top sommelier in the USA.

BUSA is now accepting registrations for sommelier wishing to compete in the U.S. competition. There will be three phases to the 2024 effort to choose the best of the best:

- March 18-19, 2024 – Initial Competition - online, timed examination of the breadth and depth of theory knowledge of all sommeliers wishing to compete. The first phase will winnow the group down to those best prepared for the grueling and intensive examinations that await the semi-finalists in June 2024. This exam is in English only and there is no blind tasting.
- June 4-5, 2024 – Semi-Finals Competition - online, timed examination of theory breadth and depth, and a blind tasting of six wines. From these semi-finalists will be chosen the Finalists, those top sommeliers who will be invited to Hermann, MO for the Finals competition to choose the best USA sommelier.
- August 19-20, 2024 – Finals Competition – this exam will follow ASI language rules: sommeliers compete in French, English or Spanish, and if competing in a non-native language, those sommeliers receive additional points in the scoring. The competition includes blind tasting, theory examinations and timed service challenges before a group of international judges, online and a seated audience.

Those interested in registering for the First Round of the Competition can go to register at BUSA's website: [www.bestusasommelier.com](http://www.bestusasommelier.com).

BUSA's first competition was held in February 2019; Dustin Chabert was awarded the title of Best USA Sommelier. The next competition was held in 2022; Mark Guillaudeu won and subsequently represented the USA at the World Competitions in Paris 2023, scoring in the top ranks.

The Best USA Sommelier Association (BUSA) Board is comprised of Matt Citriglia MS, Laura DePasquale MS, Alejandro Ferris (Vice-President), Doug Frost MS. MW (President), Evan Goldstein MS (Treasurer), Helen Gregory, Douglass Miller, Cheryl Stanley (Secretary) and Patricia Wamhoff. The BUSA Education Foundation, a 501C3-approved LLC, executes world-class sommelier competitions, enabling United States based sommeliers to compete with the world's best at the highest level, and providing educational and training opportunities for sommeliers. Since 1969, ASI has offered regional and world competitions to select the world's top sommeliers.

# BEST USA SOMMELIER ASSOCIATION

BUSA is governed by the following guidelines:

1. BUSA will advocate for those within the sommelier community who are marginalized and shut out by systems and institutions because they are people of color. BUSA acknowledges that it must address the ways racism manifests in its own community and confront it with intentional engagement and self-reflection. Our staff and volunteer leadership must reflect the great diversity of BIPOC communities.
2. BUSA seeks to embody fairness and inclusion with and among other marginalized communities, and to promote tolerance and acceptance throughout the sommelier community and to provide a safe, non-judgmental space for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, and Straight persons who share a common vision of social equality.
3. BUSA advocates for all aspects of diversity, and all marginalized groups, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, LGBTQ, religion, disability or age.
4. BUSA is committed to providing a safe environment for all its members, candidates and employees free from discrimination on any grounds and from harassment at work including sexual harassment. BUSA has a zero-tolerance policy for any form of sexual harassment in the workplace or competition venue, treats all incidents seriously and will promptly investigate all allegations of sexual harassment. Any person found to have sexually harassed another will face disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from employment, competition or future BUSA activity. Any BUSA employee or board member must bring any and all complaints of sexual harassment immediately to the ethics group; such complaints will be taken seriously and treated with respect and in confidence. No one will be victimized for making such a complaint.
5. No member of the examination or competition committees shall serve in that capacity if in a personal or substantial relationship with any candidate or competitor.

## **Press Contact**

For more information about Best USA Sommelier Association (BUSA), reach out to Doug Frost President, Best USA Sommelier Association at [winedog@att.net](mailto:winedog@att.net). Visit [www.BestUSASommelier.com](http://www.BestUSASommelier.com), the official website for membership details and organization guidelines.

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