



The Master Winemaker 100

THE AWARD-WINNING WINEMAKERS FROM THE GLOBAL MASTERS

the drinks business

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The award-winning winemakers from The Global Masters

Compiled by drinks business



Frederic Delivert, chief winemaker, Tolosa Winery

Delivert studied agricultural sciences at the Ecole Supérieure d'agriculture de Purpan in Toulouse, but discovered California during an internship in Alexander Valley in Sonoma County. Returning for the 1997 harvest, he stayed and has made wines in Napa Valley's sub-appellations, including Rutherford, Oakville, Yountville, Howell Mountain, and Mt. Veeder,

the Sonoma Coast and Red Hills Lake County AVAs. His first winemaker role was at Martin Estate, and he later worked at Tuck Beckstoffer Wines, and consulted for Clark-Claudon, Paon, Tamber Bey and S.R. Tonella Cellars. He joined Tolosa Winery in 2017, taking over from Jim Kress. Delivert's fascination with differing soil compositions and the impact of local climates has led

him on a pursuit to understand how these factors influence the wines.

What or who inspired you to become a winemaker?

From a very young age I wanted to do something related to farming. I went to college to get a masters in agricultural sciences, discovered the wine industry and thought that was a very interesting path to follow.

What's your favourite part of the job?

The diversity of activities I get involved with. In one day, you can start in the vineyard dealing with farming, then look at lab reports, move on to some tasting, finalise the production budget and finish by talking about our wines to wine-club members. I don't know a lot of jobs where you cover that many and such different topics.

What's the hardest part?

Making sure that a product we spent so many hours crafting ends up where you want it in a bottle.

What's your go-to drink at the end of a long day?

After a long hot day, white or rosé. After a long cold day, probably a straight bourbon, or a Manhattan if I take the time to make it.

What advice would you give your younger self?

Pay more attention to the business side of winemaking.

Which wine-related achievement are you most proud of?

I am really happy when I hear people who went through a flight of wines we made, telling me they were all good. I really want to make the best wine with each sku I am responsible for at the price point it is

placed at. I am more into making good or great wines across the board on any vintage with all the varietals I deal with, than about being known as the guy who scored 100 points for one specific bottling.

Who is your inspiration in the wine world today?

I can't really say somebody in particular inspires me. I am more inspired by style of wines - I like the purity of the Pinots from Maison Latour and am a big fan of Kistler, Peter Michael and Mayacamas's Chardonnays.

Where would your fantasy vineyard be?

In the Allier Valley in Auvergne, France. Auvergne used to be an important wine-producing region before Phylloxera showed up. I was born there and always thought that would be nice to make something there.

If you weren't a winemaker, what would you be doing and why?

Tough question, but probably something to do with the great outdoors, like being a fly-fishing guide

Which wine (grape/style do you find it impossible to get along with?

I have hard time with wines

Master medals

> Tolosa Winery's 1772 Pinot Noir 2015 (Pinot Noir Masters 2017)

made from overripe grapes in general. With overripeness I find the DNA of the variety disappears and the wines are usually so big that finishing the glass is not possible... I am all about finishing my glass.

How has your taste in wine changed over the years?

I definitely enjoy more purity of fruit, freshness and elegance now. And I have noticed that I am going away from oak.

Which type of wine do you drink most regularly?

White wine is probably topping my list now. Any varietal. You cannot hide anything in a white, and I find this fascinating. Pinot Noir is next.

Which wine would you most like to drink, and who would you share it with?

1949 DRC La Tache, with my family.



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