

## **Liza Zimmerman's Biography:**

Liza Zimmerman has been writing, educating and consulting about wine, cocktails and food for more than 15 years. She has published hundreds of stories in the United States and abroad in such magazines such as *Wine Spectator*, *Wine Enthusiast*, *Wine & Spirits*, *Time Out New York* and *The Magazine of La Cucina Italiana*. Her cocktail column, *In Good Spirits*, appeared in the *Seattle Weekly* for a year. Her recently launched wine and spirits blog by the same name, found on her Website, [www.lizathewinechick.com](http://www.lizathewinechick.com), will cover the drinks world's latest news, personalities and brands as well as the Wine Chick's tips and advice. Her wine and cocktail columns are currently featured in *Wine Business Monthly*, *Oakland Magazine*, *Caviar Affair* and *In the Mix*. She also writes regularly for *Fodor's* on restaurants and hotels.

Zimmerman is one of a limited number of career journalists in the wine education field. She spent seven years at the New York offices of M. Shanken Communications, the publisher of *Wine Spectator* and *Cigar Aficionado*, among other magazines, where she was promoted to the position of managing editor of *Wine Spectator's* trade arm magazine *Market Watch*. She revised and revitalized the publication, adding pertinent new content and increasing sales revenue double digits her first year. Her unique approach is down-to-earth, accessible and fun. She focuses on demystifying wine for people and transforming it into tool for conducting business and networking.

She has visited all the world's major wine growing and spirits producing regions, from Chile's Casablanca Valley and Stellenbosch in South Africa to Piedmont in Italy and France's Rhône Valley. She is one of approximately 100 people in the U.S. to hold the Diploma of Wine & Spirits (D.W.S.), the three-year program that is the precursor to the Master of Wine. As such, she is one of a very limited number of wine educators to have taught the difficult second year material of the D.W.S. wine course at Copia, The American Center for Wine, Food and the Arts, in Napa, California. The Culinary Institute of America's Rudd Center for Professional Wine Studies in St. Helena, California, is also a venue where Zimmerman has been an instructor and where she developed and taught the first full-day course on wines of the Pacific Northwest.

In addition to her educational and editorial endeavors, she also consults with restaurants to create their wine programs, as well as manage the wines offered at their special dinners and events. She regularly conducts wine education programs with Fortune 500 and other companies such as Microsoft, Wells Fargo, Barclays Global Investors and Unisys, and has judged a variety of wine and spirits competitions, including the San Francisco International Wine Competition, the Portland Indie Wine Festival, the Bacardi Bartender & Chef Cruise Competition and The Ministry of Rum Tasting Competition at Tales of the Cocktail. She has also been a wine and cocktail lecturer on Crystal Cruise's World Cruise program.

Zimmerman graduated from Northwestern University and the University of Florence with a double Bachelor's degree in American History and Italian Language and Literature. She currently resides in San Francisco and is fluent in Italian, speaks passable Spanish and gets by with wine French.

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