

# CONSTELLATION ACADEMY *of* WINE

## ACADEMY OF WINE & EDUCATOR BIOGRAPHIES

The Academy of Wine has grown tremendously from its beginnings in the early 1990s when Steve Hosmer, Director Wine Education West Coast, travelled the country offering wine education seminars. He was joined by Luis Torres, Director of Wine Education East Coast, in 2000 and together they formally created the "University of Wine" and offered education for key accounts and distributors.

In 2002, the Wine Alliance Company was purchased and the "Academy of Wine" was introduced as the new banner for the education team. From 2003 through 2010, the Academy of Wine has enlightened more than 10,000 students annually. Today The Academy of Wine is brought to you by Constellation Wines US.

### ***BIOGRAPHY: LUIS TORRES***

South American-born, Chicago-raised Luis Torres lends his extensive background in wine supply, distribution, and on-premise roles to the Academy. He studied Food Science and Technology in Mexico before spending 15 years in the restaurant industry. His experience includes an apprenticeship at Charlie Trotter's with Master Sommelier Larry Stone, studies with the Court of Master Sommeliers, and management and wine buying responsibilities for all of Hilton's Chicago properties.

Luis represented a portfolio of world wide high prestige wines. Luis' expertise in the education arena quickly became apparent and in 2001 he was promoted to his current role directing the Academy's Central, and East Coast education programs. His commitment to his students is evidenced through a highly interactive and comprehensive teaching style. Just a few of Luis' current clients include Hilton, Marriott Marquis NY, Ritz Carlton Chicago and Puerto Rico and Sofitel Hotels; Disney, Tavern on the Green NY, Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises, the Carnegie Mellon Tepper School MBA and the US Geographical Association.

#### Recent Achievements and Memberships

- Passed the Wine and Spirits Education Trust Advanced Exam in February 2010
- Certified to teach the WSET Introductory and Intermediate courses April 2010
- In 2010 he will be certifying as an instructor for the Wine and Spirits Education Trust.
- Received Mastery in Communication from Atlanta based S.E. Communications in 2008.
- Member: American Society of Training and Development, and Society of Wine Educators.
- He is currently studying at the advanced level with the Court of Master Sommeliers.