



## 2008 CHARLOTTE WINE & FOOD WEEKEND Special Guests Profiles

### **Eric Solomon**, founder, European Cellars

Charlotte Wine & Food Weekend Event – Connoisseur Tasting: The Reign in Spain with Eric Solomon, 10:00 am at The Westin

Following a successful career at Heublein, where he served as the director of French wines and ports, Eric Solomon established European Cellars to distribute high-quality wines produced by small, intensely serious winemakers in classic and emerging wine regions throughout Europe. In 2002, he was named as one of the Wine Personalities of the Year by *The Wine Advocate*. Robert M. Parker Jr. has personally praised his importing expertise stating that the wines Solomon chooses “exude personality, quality and character.” *Food & Wine Magazine* also named Solomon the Importer of the Year for 2006 based on Solomon’s decisions to choose wine regions over winemaking techniques.

### **Sarah & Sparky Marquis**, winemakers, Mollydooker

Charlotte Wine & Food Weekend Event – Enthusiast Tasting: Don’t Get Left Behind! Aussie Tasting with Sarah and Sparky Marquis of Mollydooker, 10:00 am at The Westin

Sarah and Sparky Marquis met while studying winemaking in South Australia in 1987. Together, the couple has produced wines that are consistently praised and ranked by Robert M. Parker Jr. and *The Wine Spectator*. Their signature style, Wines that Make People Go “WOW!” is ensured through their attention to detail and commitment to excellence during the winery process. In 1998, Sarah and Sparky Marquis founded their own company, producing wine that is internationally recognized including Henry’s Drive, Parson’s Flat, Shirvington Cabernet and Shirvington Shiraz. They have also been selected as the Australian Winemakers of the Year and have earned the title of McLaren Vale Bushing King and Queen three times. Mollydooker is their new brand.

**Antonio Galloni**, founder and publisher, *Piedmont Report*

Charlotte Wine & Food Weekend Event – Connoisseur Tasting: Vino d'Italia: The Best of Tuscany and the Veneto with Leonardo LoCascio and Antonio Galloni, 2:00 pm at The Westin

Antonio Galloni founded the *Piedmont Report* after realizing that information about Italian wines was not readily available to consumers. The first *Piedmont Report* was published in 2004 and drew upon his experiences traveling throughout Italy where he would visit leading estates among the major winemaking regions. The *Piedmont Report* rapidly established itself as the guide of choice among lovers of Piedmont wines in over 25 countries. In 2006, Robert M. Parker Jr. invited him to join *The Wine Advocate* as Galloni began to expand his coverage to other regions of Italy.

**Leonardo LoCascio**, president and CEO, Winebow, Inc.

Charlotte Wine & Food Weekend Event – Connoisseur Tasting: Vino d'Italia: The Best of Tuscany and the Veneto with Leonardo LoCascio and Antonio Galloni, 2:00 pm at The Westin

Named one of the most influential wine personalities of the last 20 years by Robert M. Parker Jr., Leonardo LoCascio is America's foremost authority on Italian wines. In 1980, LoCascio launched Winebow, Inc. following a successful career in corporate finance. For more than 25 years his goal has been to uncover the best wines in Italy, looking beyond the popular regions of Tuscany, Piedmont and the Veneto. Winebow's *Leonardo LoCascio Selections* label has become the de facto seal of approval for Italian wine enthusiasts worldwide. In 2002, he became a vintner in a joint venture with the Allegrini family with the purchase of Le Sondraie, a wine estate in Tuscany. LoCascio has also brought on several investment partners to facilitate Winebow's expansion as a distributor.

**Fritz Hatton**, wine auctioneer

Charlotte Wine & Food Weekend Event – Big Bottles & Blues, sponsored by RBC Wealth Management, 7:00 pm at Gateway Center Promenade and Grand Live Auction & Gala sponsored by Accenture, 6:00 pm at The Westin

Fritz Hatton is the nation's leading wine auctioneer. He joined Christie's to start its wine department in 1980 and served as the department's director for three years. While at Christie's and in partnership with Zachys, Hatton organized the largest wine auction in the United States. He joined Zachys in 2002 and has positioned the company to be the leader in the United States wine auction market. For more than 20 years, Hatton has conducted charity auctions throughout the nation in support of arts, educational and medical charities. He has also served as the principal auctioneer for Auction Napa Valley since 1998. Additionally, in 1998, Hatton launched Arietta, his own microbrand featuring handmade Bordeaux-styled Napa red wines.