Court of Master Sommeliers, Americas Chairman’s Message

The Board of Directors of the Court of Master Sommeliers, Americas universally condemns racism, prejudice, and racially motivated violence in all its forms. We stand in solidarity with the Black community against racial injustice and support calls for reform.

With great humility we commit to listening, learning, advocating and acting for change in our industry and our communities. We resolve to support initiatives for inclusion and diversity in the hospitality industry and to support organizations that create opportunities for the Black community and people of color to thrive as sommeliers, winemakers, distributors, retailers and beverage industry leaders. We pledge to do more within our organization to inspire and support those seeking to become Master Sommeliers.

In January we made a small but significant first step to encouraging more diversity in our industry by supporting the efforts of Wine Empowered (www.wine-empowered.com), a New York based non-profit committed to empowering women and people of color through tuition-free wine education. Organizationally, we are committed to seeking out more opportunities like this and others.

We encourage Master Sommeliers and beverage professionals to seek out and support Black-owned wine businesses. The Hue Society (www.thehuesociety.com) is a community organization that has published and will update a list available HERE and GuildSomm (www.guildsomm.com) has published a list available HERE.

We recognize these are only initial steps in a much longer journey as we chart the course for current and future Master Sommeliers. It is important to us that the above commitments are followed up with sincere action over the weeks, months, and years ahead. Your help, insight, feedback, and hard work are both welcome and necessary. We have been encouraged to see the many individual members who have spoken out for justice and racial equality. Now, it is time we all stand united to promote diversity and inclusivity within our organization, the hospitality industry, and the world.

Part of what brought us all to the hospitality industry and to the Court of Master Sommeliers is a deeply ingrained desire to serve others. That desire we know was a crucial guiding light on our journey to becoming Master Sommeliers. Let us use that light now to do our part to effect the change we know is possible and necessary.

With Gratitude,

Devon Broglie, MS
Chairman of the Board
Court of Master Sommeliers, Americas

The Court of Master Sommeliers sets the global standard of excellence for beverage service within the hospitality industry with integrity, exemplary knowledge, and humility.