

# JOHN SZABO MS

Master Sommelier | Author | Culinary and Travel Enthusiast

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John Szabo MS is an award-winning wine expert, writer, author, and podcaster. He is the first Canadian Master Sommelier and one of the 269 Master Sommeliers around the world. John holds the Wine & Spirits Education Trust (WSET) Diploma with honours and the Canadian Sommelier Guild Diploma.

As a partner and principal critic for WineAlign.com, Canada's largest wine publication, John is also a buyer for the WineAlign Exchange wine club. He recently joined CellArt, a company that designs and manufactures wine cellars and tasting rooms.

Along with Sara d'Amato, John co-hosts a bi-weekly podcast, *Wine Thieves*. His articles have been published in The Globe and Mail and magazines such as Wine & Spirits, EnRoute, Vines, Wine Access, Modalina, Monarch, Canopy, VinCE, MarQueen, City Bites, and Nation's Restaurant News.

In 2016, John's book *Volcanic Wines: Salt, Grit and Power* won the Andre Simon Award and was featured in the top drinks books of The Guardian, Forbes, Decanter, The Globe and Mail, and JancisRobinson.com. John is also the author of the 2013 book *Pairing Food and Wine for Dummies*.

The Drinks Magazine declared John as "One of the world's foremost authorities on the subject," while Meininger's Wine Business International listed John as "Canada's best-known sommelier." John has been a three-time champion on Wine Align's *So You Think You Know Wine*, the online blind wine tasting video show.

As a wine expert and commentator, John has appeared on *CTV National News*, *Your Morning*, *Breakfast Television*, *The Morning Show*, TVOntario, CityTV, and CBC TV, and was heard regularly on Classical 96.3FM.

A regular speaker at events worldwide, John has delivered masterclasses at various wine trade associations. He builds wine programs across Canada and is currently sourcing wines for Accor, Fairmont, and Sofitel Hotels in Québec.

Not only does John live and breathe wine but also owns the J&J Eger Wine Co, a vineyard in the Eger region of Hungary. Outside of wine, John holds a third-degree black belt in *Goju-Karate-do*.

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