



## SHAYN BJORNHOLM, MS

Liquid Relations™ Sr. Wine Culture Associate, Seattle, WA.

Having turned a serious eye towards wine just 8 years ago, Shayn has attained a level of career achievement on a global scale usually reserved for those who have put forth decades' worth of effort. He is recognized as one of the foremost wine professionals in the world, utilizing his innate talents, highly charged work ethic and unerring pursuit of excellence to become a humble leader in all facets of the industry.

Based in Seattle, WA., Shayn is currently the Education Director for the Washington Wine Commission, the state marketing arm for the world-class wines of Washington State. He comes to his current position after guiding one of the most highly lauded restaurant wine programs in the United States as Wine Director at Canlis Restaurant for 6 years. During his tenure, Canlis garnered numerous awards for its vinous efforts, including the Pacific Northwest's only Wine Spectator "Grand Award" each year to run the restaurant's total to 10 consecutively. The program was also named a "Top 6 Most Trustworthy Wine Programs of 2004" by Gentleman's Quarterly, "2005 National Wine Program of the Year" by Santé Magazine and "Best Wine Restaurant in Seattle" by Food and Wine, Gourmet, Seattle Magazine and The Seattle Times. Under his tutelage, two Canlis Restaurant sommeliers were awarded the prestigious Wine and Spirits "Top Young Sommeliers in the United States" in consecutive years – the only time one restaurant has achieved such a feat.

While pushing Canlis Restaurant to new heights, Shayn attained some remarkable personal achievements, as well. In 2005, he earned the title of Master Sommelier on his first effort at the examination. For this, he was awarded one of the wine industry's most prestigious recognitions, the Krug Cup - just the 10th person in the world to do so. He was recognized as "2006 Sommelier of the Year" by Seattle Magazine, "2005 Regional Wine Professional of the Year" by Santé, "2004 Most Trustworthy Sommeliers in the United States" by Gentleman's Quarterly and "2004 Sommelier of the Year" by The Seattle Times. He is a wine columnist for Seattle Magazine with bi-monthly articles investigating the Pacific Northwest's booming wine industry, and is also published in The Chalk Hill Sommelier Guide, The Sommelier Journal and Luxe. Shayn's love of the stage (he was a New York City actor in another life) and joy in educating people about the wonders of wine has led him to become an entertaining fixture on the national wine festival circuit, having appeared as a panelist at The Aspen Food and Wine Classic, the Kapalua Wine and Food Festival, Cornucopia and Taste WA, among others. As an expert voice on wine, he has appeared in articles in *Food and Wine*, *Wine Spectator*, *Food Arts*, *Wine and Spirits*, *Gourmet* and *Wine Enthusiast*. In 2007, Shayn was also featured on the highly popular television series, *Fine Living Network's* "I Want Your Job" as the sommelier everyone wants to be.

Shayn's most treasured position in the industry, however, is as a wine educator and mentor. He has been a course instructor and examination adjudicator since 2005 for the Court of Master Sommeliers, and one of the quickest in its history to be invited to adjudicate the rigorous Master Sommelier examination. He serves as a judge for the Chaines des Rotisseurs "Jeune Sommelier du Monde" competitions each year. From 2002 to 2006, he taught the 12 week classroom style Level One and Two courses for the International Sommelier Guild. Even amidst such recognizable achievements, it is the one-on-one, under-the-radar mentoring of scores of the best and brightest the wine industry has to offer which has no titles to speak of save for personal and professional growth that stands as Shayn's highest professional achievement.