WINE BOOTH #7

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TASTING LIST -

CUPCAKE VINEYARDS



Jessica Tomei

Winemaker

Jessica Tomei was born in California and raised with a heavy Italian/Greek influence. Growing up in a family with such a strong heritage, she was raised with a strong appreciation for food and wine. apply and consider when cooking or just appreciating fine food/wine.

Tomei earned her Bachelor's degree in Viticulture & Enology from the University of California, Davis. Shortly after graduating, she completed her first harvest in Sonoma. This only reaffirmed her passion for winemaking, and she has since completed almost 20 different harvests around the world. She's worked amongst growers in a number of vineyards in Tuscany, Napa, and Chile. Launched in 2008, Cupcake Vineyards is America's #1 Premium wine \$8+ by volume3, according to Nielsen.

"I have been in the industry for 18 years, which has been mainly dominated by men especially in positions of leadership. As the winemaker, your creation is constantly being judged and critiqued, so I often feel like I need to prove myself. I am not naturally competitive, so I don't like that feeling of boasting or having to prove myself. I want the wine to speak for itself and the place where it was grown. My job is to get that into the bottle."



Cupcake Vineyard Moscato d'Asti NV Italy HK\$ 250 HK\$ 160



Cupcake Vineyard Prosecco NV Italy HK\$ 285 HK\$ 220



Cupcake Vineyard Riesling 2015 Germany HK\$ 250 HK\$ 160



Cupcake Vineyard Malbec 2015 Argentina HK\$ 300

DOMAINE WARDY



Diana Salame Khalil

Winemaker

Diana Salame Khalil, The Lebanese by birth, and oenologist of the Wardy wine estate, studied and worked in Burgundy for many years. She is the winemaker at Wardy and formerly of Domaine Leflaive, is Bekaa's first female-winemaker.

"Quite Challenging to be a female winemaker in Europe already, so in Lebanon it was very challenging. Sure they respect your diploma and knowledge but still you have to proof your talent and capacities. You have two categories of behavior, the first one they don't want you to work manually (don't touch the pump, i will do it for you) and the second one they will leave you alone to see if you can do it. They need time to get use to it, but they admit that ladies have more sensitive regarding the tasting and the perfection in work."



Domaine Wardy Obeideh 2015 Bekka, Lebanon HK\$ 420 HK\$ 380



Domaine Wardy **Private Selection** Red 2006 Bekka, Lebanon HK\$ 450

HK\$ 399



Domaine Wardy Private Selection Muscat 2012 Bekka, Lebanon HK\$ 350

HK\$ 299

VINKARA WINES





Vinkara Wines Kalecik Karasi 2013 / 2014 Turkey HK\$ 250 HK\$ 215

Ardiç Gürsel

Founder and Owner

After finishing the Master degree in Management in Hospitality, Ardic persuaded her family to establish a winery in Central Anatolia on land her family owned near the small medieval town of Kalecik in 2000s, home to one of Turkey's most famous grapes, Kalicek Karasi.

Ardiç Gürsel runs the business and studied at Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration. Her focus has been on highlighting the potential of native Turkish varietals. Gürsel brought in Piedmont winemaker Marco Monchiero as a consultant, and Monchiero recruited agronomist Ennio Gugliotta and winemaker Tina Lino from Sicily to head up the winemaking operations. She now produces about one million bottles a year and that number is growing.

What makes the story compelling though is that she has done this in a Muslim country, her native country of Turkey, and it is a business she has envisioned starting and growing since the early 1980s and throughout a successful career in hotel management.

It was not quite easy since the Turkish government has clamped down tight on marketing and advertising of alcohol products, and that includes social media. Despite the steps backwards the government has taken, Vinkara under Ardic Gursel's leadership is moving forward.