

David Gleave

David Gleave is founder and managing director of Liberty Wines. He set up the company in 1997, and it now imports and distributes premium wines from 25 countries and works with 400 producers.

David has worked in the UK wine trade since 1983. Born and educated in Canada, he has lived in the U.K. since 1978, working as wine buyer for Winecellars between 1986 and 1994 (the leading UK specialist retailer of Italian wines at the time), and as deputy managing director of Enotria Winecellars from 1994 to 1996.

In 1986 he passed his Master of Wine examination. Throughout his career, he has spent at least 5-6 months of every year travelling the world, including 2-3 months in Italy, buying and researching wines. This experience has given him an unrivalled knowledge of and insight into the country's wines, and as a result he is generally regarded as the UK's leading expert on Italian wines. He has written a book on the subject, published in 1989, and numerous articles for wine magazines over the years. He also updated the Italian entries in the third edition of The Oxford Companion to Wine.

David Gleave has been involved in the production of wines, both with Liberty Wines and Willunga 100, in Italy, France, New Zealand and Australia. Today, he is a shareholder in Willunga 100, which owns a vineyard in Blewitt Springs in McLaren Vale, South Australia.

In addition, he is a trustee of the André Simon Awards, which each year selects the best food and drink books published in the UK.