



Sergio Esposito, Owner

With more than 20 years of experience in the world of Italian wine, Sergio Esposito is recognized by industry insiders as the premier Italian wine consultant in the United States.

In 1999, Esposito founded Italian Wine Merchants in New York City with Mario Batali and Joseph Bastianich. With Esposito at its helm, the store has raised the profile of Italian wine in this country and influenced both colleagues and collectors with its cutting-edge selections. Journalists, writers, and wine enthusiasts regularly consult with him, and he is frequently featured in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The International Herald Tribune*, *Wine Spectator*, *Food & Wine*, and *SmartMoney*.

Esposito spends three months of the year in Italy, where he meets with producers, tastes new vintages, and brokers the sale of wines. He travels around the United States twice a month, giving lectures and presenting tastings. Esposito is also the author of *Passion on the Vine: A Memoir of Food, Wine, and Family in the Heart of Italy*. The colorful narrative, which takes the reader on an illuminating exploration of Esposito's native land and its remarkable vintners, was released by Broadway Books in April 2008.

A native of Napoli, Esposito grew up in New York. He has worked as a wine consultant in Manhattan since the late 1980s, and resides in the city with his wife and their two children.