



DAISUKE KAWAI

PROFILE

Born in Kashiwazaki-city, Niigata Japan, Daisuke Kawai moved to Tokyo after his high school graduation and started his first job in a café as a waiter. Soon after, he was offered a position at restaurant Eureka located in Imperial Hotel, Tokyo which is known for its high standards and emphasis on tradition.

In search for more knowledge abroad, Kawai moved to Sydney, Australia in 1999 and worked for a restaurant to gain more experience. After a year, he moved back to Tokyo but continued to travel and expose himself to different cultures, foods, and restaurant businesses across 42 different countries across the world.

In 2010, he moved to Singapore and worked for three-star Michelin restaurant Les Amis as Chef Sommelier and later at Lewin Terrace as the General Manager and Chief Sommelier where he honed his skills in the wine trade. By 2015, he was able to set up his own establishment, La Terre. Though many would assume that his career originated from the wine industry, it was through his time in the restaurant and service industry where he built the strong foundation for his career.

Currently, he is also an honoured guest judge for sommelier competitions and wine exhibitions in Singapore and around Asia. He also continues to participate in sommelier competitions and strives to be the best in the world one day.

QUALIFICATIONS

Rioja Wine Diploma Rioja Wine Academy by Consejo Regulador de la DO Rioja	2020
Certified Sherry Educator Consejo Regulador Sherry y Manzanilla-Sanlucar de Barrameda	2019
Level 3 Award in Wine The Wine & Spirit Education Trust	2019
Koshu Ambassador Koshu Expert Committee	2018
Accredited Bordeaux Wine Educator Conseil Interprofessionnel du Vin de Bordeaux	2017
Certified Wine Advisor Singapore Polytechnic	2015
International Kiki Sake-shi Sake Service Institute International	2014
Sake Navigator Sake Service Institute Japan	2014
Certified Specialist of Wine Society of Wine Educators, Headquarter in USA	2012
Senior Sommelier Japan Sommelier Association	2010
Table Manners Master Lecturer of French Cuisine The Japan Hotel and Restaurant Service Development Association	2009
Cheese Professional Japan Cheese Professional Association	2008
Western Cuisine Table Manner Lecturer The Japan Hotel and Restaurant Service Development Association	2007
Grade 1 Restaurant Service National Trade Skill Test The Japan Hotel and Restaurant Service Development Association <i>(National Qualification in Japan)</i>	2006
Certified General Travel Service Supervisor Tour Conducting Service Association in Japan	2006
Sommelier Japan Sommelier Association	2003

AWARDS

Hall of Fame Best Sommelier of the year World Gourmet Awards Singapore	2020
2nd Runner Up Singapore American Wine Sommelier Competition	2019
Best Taster Singapore National Sommelier Competition	2019
Semi-Finalist Singapore National Sommelier Competition	2019
Best Sommelier of the year World Gourmet Awards Singapore	2019
2nd Runner Up Ruinart Sommelier Challenge Singapore	2019
Semi-Finalist Singapore National Sommelier Competition	2018
Winner Singapore's Best Sommelier for California Wines	2018
Best Bar Manager of the year World Gourmet Summit Awards of Excellence Singapore	2018
Finalist Ruinart Sommelier Challenge Singapore	2018
Winner Asia Best Sommelier Competition in French Wines by SOPEXA	2017
Winner DBR (Lafite) Trophy in Asia by Domaines Barons de Rothschild	2017
Winner Gastromonth Favourite Sommelier by Robert Parker & Michelin	2017
1st Runner Up Singapore Best Sommelier Competition in French Wines by SOPEXA	2017
Best Sommelier of the year World Gourmet Summit Awards of Excellence Singapore	2017

AWARDS

Finalist Ruinart Sommelier Challenge Singapore	2017
2nd Runner Up Singapore Wine Specialist Challenge	2016
Finalist Pilsner Urquell Competition Singapore	2016
Sommelier of the year finalist World Gourmet Summit Awards of Excellence Singapore	2016
Winner Academy of Wines of Portugal in Singapore	2015
Finalist Sommelier Challenge Singapore	2013
Best Sommelier of the year World Gourmet Summit Awards of Excellence Singapore	2013
2nd Runner Up Sommelier Challenge Singapore	2011

HONORS

Chevalier-Sabreur Confrerie du Sabre d'Or	2020
Chevalier La Confrerie des Chevaliers du Tastevin	2019
Inductee Jurade de Saint-Emilion	2019
Sabreur Confrerie du Sabre d'Or	2019
Ambassador Academy of Wines of Portugal	2015
Chevalier Ordre des Coteaux de Champagne	2014

Judge

Adviser Jakarta Best Sommelier Competition	2020
Panel Judge Asia Best Sommelier Competition in French Wines by SOPEXA	2019
Panel Judge Singapore Best Sommelier Competition in French Wines by SOPEXA	2019
Panel Judge Decanter Asia Wine Awards	2019
Panel Judge Asia Best Sommelier Competition in French Wines by SOPEXA	2018
Panel Judge Singapore Best Sommelier Competition in French Wines by SOPEXA	2018
Panel Judge Decanter Asia Wine Awards	2018
Head Judge Indonesia National Sommelier Competition	2018
Head Judge Bali Best Sommelier Competition	2018
Panel Judge Dewata Gastronomic Challenge (Indonesia)	2018
Panel Judge Decanter Asia Wine Awards	2017
Panel Judge Asia Wine and Spirits Awards Judged by TOP Asia Sommeliers	2015
Panel Judge Malaysia National Sommelier Competition	2015