

Mary Watson-DeLauder
Chief Wine Officer
The National Conference Center and West Belmont Place

Mary has been in the wine industry for over 30 years, since her first wine job as a retail consultant and salesperson. She was at Lansdowne Resort for 15 years before becoming Corporate Sommelier for Benchmark Hospitality for the next five years. While at Lansdowne, she created many wine programs, the wine list for four restaurants, as well as Food and Wine Camps. She also developed, worked and created a garden and patio, in conjunction with the herb garden. While at Benchmark, she participated in eight dinners at the James beard House in New York.

She was at Cookology, a small cooking school in Leesburg, for three years, while working as sommelier and wine buyer for The Wine'ing Butcher, a wine store in Leesburg.

For the last three years, she has been the Chief Wine Officer at the National Conference Center, which includes creating the Herb Gardener and Bar Manager for the Black Olive Bar & Grill. She performs a variety of wine programs and seminars for clients, works directly with Chef Chris Ferrier pairing wines for the monthly Chef's Tables and is an integral part of the food and beverage program at The National Conference Center.

Mary was the spokesperson for Virginia Wine Tourism in 2007 and 2008 and is a Certified Sommelier, a Certified Specialist of Wine, and a judge for the Virginia Wine Growers Association for over 20 years.