

Ursula Hermacinski

Ursula's auction career started long ago at Christie's Fine Art Auctioneers. She came to wine via her skills as an auctioneer, although her area of specialty was furniture and decorative arts. Not only was Ursula Christie's first female wine auctioneer, she was the first woman ever to be invited to wield the gavel at the famous Napa Valley Wine Auction, and since then has presided over most of the country's top benefit wine auctions. She is a pioneering figure in benefit wine auctions targeted to trade account bidders.

Ursula has been a featured speaker at various conferences such as the Aspen Food and Wine Festival, the International Pinot Noir Celebration, the American Institute of Wine and Food and has been a guest on general news shows including CNN's Marketplace. Vanity Fair Magazine included Ursula as one of the "definitions" in the inaugural "Wine Snob's Dictionary".

From 2006 – 2010, Ursula stepped away from the auction podium to oversee the ownership transition of Napa Valley's iconic property, Screaming Eagle.

Ursula now holds the position of Wine Ambassador at the St Regis Deer Valley where she plans a handful of exclusive wine events for hotel guests, Deer Crest Club members and local Park City wine enthusiasts. Additionally, Ursula is the author of *The Wine Lovers Guide to Auctions*, the definitive manual of buying and selling wine at auction.