

Zoës

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Marc Sauter grew up in a military family, an experience which exposed him to travel and international cultures. Even as a child, he was interested in the food and wine of European family dining. Having come to Virginia to study accounting at Old Dominion University, it wasn't long before he realized that his true passion was being able to share life's celebrations with food and wine. Realizing that, he decided to make it a career and therefore worked and learned, taking opportunities, whenever possible, to further his education about wine. He participated in many travel experiences to further expand his knowledge, with trips to Australia, New Zealand, Spain, France, Oregon and of course, Napa, Valley, Marc's home away from home. Now, after 24 years in the restaurant industry, Marc continues to share his passion for food and wine as a sommelier and wine educator at Zoës, in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

In April 2000 Marc passed the Court of Master Sommelier's Intro Level and joined the Guild of Sommeliers. He has advanced that position and has achieved the status of "Advance Master Sommelier Candidate" within the Court. He has been one of forty sommeliers in America invited to and attending the Sommelier Summit for the past five years. In 2005 he was awarded "Service Professional of the Year" for Southeastern America by Santé Magazine and Top 34 Wine Lists in Northern America by Wine Enthusiast Magazine. He has been the recipient of the Wine Spectator Award for his wine lists for the past seventeen years, and together with his partner and Executive Chef Jerry Weihbrecht Zoës enjoyed being named the #1 Rated Restaurant in Southern Virginia in 2009 by the Hampton Roads Magazine.

Marc devotes much of his free time to charitable causes, participating in events for St. Jude's Research Hospital, Seton House Foundation, Toby's Dream Foundation, The Haitian Relief Fund and the Joy Foundation. He served as a board member of the Chesapeake Bay Wine Classic, an organization that helps local students' scholastic dreams come true by providing college scholarships. He also enjoys helping others develop a love of wine; he teaches wine classes and has helped many to prepare for the master Sommelier Introductory level exam.

His passion for the restaurant industry, his lust for knowledge, and his devotion to wines and all that is involved has been incredibly supported by his wife Ursula and daughters Beth and Madeleine. Anyone who knows Marc understands that his truest treasures are his wife and children but the wines he loves and covets are his babies.