

## the wine guy

**Billy Munnely** is the champion of good everyday wine. His lighthearted and enlightening writing has helped to remove the confusion and intimidation from the wine selection process – taking it back from the snobs.

Before devoting his life to the pursuit of good, affordable wine, the Irish-born bon vivant spent years in the restaurant industry. In 1977 he opened Stratford's celebrated Rundles restaurant with current owner Jim Morris. In 1981 he opened the Rosedale Diner in Toronto. In 1983 Billy switched to drinking full time and 'hasn't missed a day's work since'. Munnely was one of the first to write and publish a wine consumer report. His bi-monthly wine publication, *Billy's Best Bottles Wineletter* (1983 - 2005) was Canada's most widely circulated consumer wine report, with subscribers from coast to coast.

In the early 90s, Billy saw the need for an annual wine buying guide for the wines that are sold across Canada. His handbook, *Billy's Best Bottles* (now in its 19th edition) has been a Canadian best seller each year since its inception and is now Canada's best selling wine book. Published each November, it is available from [www.billysbestbottles.com](http://www.billysbestbottles.com) or stores (including Chapters & Indigo).

Billy has appeared on *Canada AM*, *Christine Cushing Live*, *Breakfast TV*, *Hunter's Gathering*, *The Gardener's Journal* and *CBC Radio*. His writing has been showcased in numerous newspapers and magazines including *the New York Times*, *Toro*, *Canadian Consumer Report*, *Wine X*, *LCBO Food & Drink*, *Wish* and *Metro*. He is a member of the Wine Writer's Circle of Canada.

## his right hand

**Kato Wake** has been involved in the restaurant and hospitality industry for almost as long as Billy – but hasn't drunk quite so much wine.

She taught dining room service at the Stratford Chefs School for 8 years and has worked in several high-end restaurants. Over the years, Kato has instructed hundreds of hospitality workers in 'the art of service' and has implemented training programs for several restaurants. Kato paralleled her 'restaurant life' with a self-employed career in art and design. She owned and managed her own store and design business in Stratford for seven years where she designed and manufactured promotional materials, graphics and illustrations for clients including the Stratford Festival.

After moving to Toronto in 1996, Kato was in the inaugural class of the Canadian Film Centre's new media program and was creative director of her group's prototype, *The Great Canadian Story Engine* – an online story-telling project which traveled the country in a computer equipped airstream trailer. For three years Kato taught graphic and new media design at the International Academy of Design before heading up the design and production (print/web) of *Billy's Best Bottles*. Kato also plays a key role in concept development and education for *Billy's Best*. See her portfolio at [www.katowake.com](http://www.katowake.com).

Billy and Kato service the wine and hospitality industry via wine education seminars (hands-on to over 6,000 consumers and hospitality staff across Canada) and innovative marketing concepts.

