

## Biography

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**James Suckling**, 63, is one of today's leading wine critics whose reviews are read and respected by wine lovers, serious wine collectors, and the wine trade worldwide. He is chairman and editor of JamesSuckling.com, the wine media platform and events company with offices in Hong Kong.

Since starting his career, Suckling estimates he has tasted and rated close to 250,000 wines. Last year he and his team of tasters rated more than 18,000 wines. This year they should rate almost 25,000. His website provides more than 130,000 wine ratings at the moment. They currently rate more than 2,000 wines a month.

JamesSuckling.com currently has more than 600,000 unique visitors to its website per year. About 50% is North American. It has approximately 5 million followers with coverage with its website, social media, newsletters (Chinese, Korean, Thai and English), Prestige magazine in Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia, Noblesse magazine in Korea and China, WeChat, and Weibo. He is one of the largest wine influencers on Instagram with 288,000 followers.

JamesSuckling.com also organizes about 20 wine events each year around the world for more than 1,000 participants at each venue. Tastings are held in the following cities: New York, Miami, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Hong Kong, Beijing, Seoul and Bangkok. Events include Great Wines of the World, Great Wines of Andes, Great Wines of Italy, and Bordeaux Confidential.

It all began in 1981 when Suckling responded to an ad in the **Los Angeles Times** where the fledgling American magazine **Wine Spectator** was looking for an assistant editor. He was hired, and four years later, Suckling moved to Paris to establish **Wine Spectator's** European bureau, which put him in the center of European wine production and cemented his relationships with a variety of vintners, as well as contributed to his expanding knowledge of wines throughout the continent.

In total, Suckling spent nearly 30 years as Senior Editor and European Bureau Chief of **The Wine Spectator**, and as European Editor of **Cigar Aficionado**. On his departure from the magazines, **Forbes** called the Los Angeles-born writer "one of the world's most powerful wine critics."

Shortly after in late 2010, Suckling launched [JamesSuckling.com](http://JamesSuckling.com), a site that evolved from him seeing a need for wine to be communicated in a more modern way. The crux of the site are his tasting notes, and James and his team of critics rate everything with the 100-point scale. The site also offers subscribers high-definition video content from wineries around the world, with a focus on Austria, Germany, Italy, Bordeaux, Spain,

Chile, Argentina, Napa Valley, Australia and New Zealand. The site attracts viewers from over 110 countries, with the largest audiences in North America, China, Argentina, Brazil, Hong Kong, Thailand, the United Kingdom, Australia, Italy, and France.

Though most of his time is spent working for his own media company, Suckling also promotes and creates pieces for Lalique, the famous French crystal manufacturer. His **Lalique 100 points Collection by James Suckling** features eight different glasses as well as three decanters and emphasizes "functionality and beauty." His most popular glass in the line is the 100-points universal glass, which can be used for all wines: red, white or rosé.

James is also a highly regarded public speaker. For example, he was the featured wine expert for Wine Day in China with Tmall (Alibaba) in September 2017 and 2016, which attracted more than 100 million participants. He spoke in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing in January 2018 as the keynote speaker on his experience with Chinese wine in front of 800 wine distributors and for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Great Wall winery.

He also is a highly-respected instructor for Masterclass.com. His program on "Wine Appreciation" has attracted more than 20,000 subscribers while his trailer has more than 6 million views on YouTube

In 2017, James received a knighthood from the Italian government - Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia – for his decades long coverage of Italian Wines. He also received in January 2018 an honorary citizenship from the town of Montalcino for his almost four decades of writing about and rating Brunello di Montalcino.

James also received the Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Merite from the French government in December 2020 for his four decades' coverage of the French wine world.

A permanent resident of Hong Kong, Suckling is the father of two children, Jack and Isabel Suckling. As a British choirgirl, Isabel signed a record contract with Decca in 2010 at age 12, making her one of the youngest classical recording artists to date. In 2012, she released a single on Robin Gibb's classical album "Titanic Requiem," and she has also performed at her father's wine events. The 23-year-old is now a journalist. Jack, 26, is a financial trader and lives in Bangkok.

Suckling is married to Marie Kim-Suckling, a former Hong Kong-based wine merchant originally from Seoul who also works as vice president of JamesSuckling.com and owns and manages James Suckling Wine Central. The high-end wine bar/restaurant features more than 500 wines by the glass and 800 wines overall. The food is a French Korean bistro.