

MELISSA MILLS



SAKE CONNECT



SAKE STORY

Sake Connect founder Melissa Mills's 10-year sake journey began with a fascination for Japanese culture, language and cuisine but it was one snowy winter's day in Gifu prefecture's sleepy Mizunami village when passion turned to dedication.

Standing in the aromatic warmth of a cedar clad Koji room, in the eaves of 300-year-old Nakashima Sake Brewery, she was offered a handful of rice, covered in silky tendrils of white mould, and invited to eat.

Struck with a sudden thirst for deeper understanding Melissa continued exploring Japan and sake whilst intensively studying the language. In 2016 she formalised her relationship with sake by completing WSET level 3 sake qualifications.

After winning The International Wine Challenge Award in Sake in 2017 Melissa attended London's WSET Global Graduation and Awards Ceremony receiving the prize of participating on the judging team at the 2018 International Wine Challenge Sake Competition held in Yamagata Prefecture, Japan.



Her involvement in this prestigious event, connecting with Sake brewers from all over Japan and industry leaders from around the globe, not to mention sampling her way through some of the 1630 interesting bottles of sake, only highlighted her desire to share her knowledge and experience.

Bringing new energy and perspective, Sake Connect is a boutique agency that demystifies, inspires and focuses on enjoyment for sake curious audiences Australia-wide.





MELISSA MILLS

Owner Sake Connect

MY BACKGROUND

A passion for Japanese food and drink culture translated to a desire to understand well and share widely.

SPECIALISATIONS

Sake Promotion
Custom Events
WSET Sake Education
Hospitality Training
Menu Creation & Consulting
Sake Pairing / Matching
Private & Corporate Event
Sake Talk

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Collingwood VIC 3066
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CAREER BACKGROUND

DENTAL SURGEON

New Zealand, England & Australia 1989 - 2004

MEDICAL BUSINESS MANAGER

Melbourne, Australia 2003 - 2010

INVESTMENT MANAGER

Melbourne, Australia 2010 - 2017

SAKE CONNECT DIRECTOR

Melbourne, Australia 2018 - current

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

1988 Bachelor of Dental Surgery *with credit*
Otago University, NZ

1993 Fellowship in Dental Surgery
Royal College of Surgeons UK

1998 Graduate Diploma in Clinical Dentistry
Melbourne University, Australia

2012 Certificate 1, 2, 3 & 4 in Japanese *with HD*
RMIT University, Australia

2013 Japanese Language Proficiency Test N4

2016 WSET Level 3 Sake Course
Melbourne, Australia

2019 WSET Sake Educators Course Level 1 & 3
London, UK

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

2017 International Wine Challenge Sake Prize awarded by WSET Global for the highest academic grade in L3 Sake Course.

2018 International Wine Challenge Sake Judging Panel - ongoing

2019 WSET Sake Educator Qualification