



Benjamin Hammerschlag

July 28, 1971 - November 4, 2017

Benjamin Hammerschlag, 46, owner and CEO of Epicurean Wines, died in his home in Bellingham, Washington.

He was a renowned winemaker and importer of Australian wines. Named in 2004 by Food and Wine magazine one of “35 most fearsome talents in wine and food, all 35 years old or under”: “To sell his first 1,000-case shipment of Australian wine, Benjamin Hammerschlag went door-to-door to Seattle restaurants and wine shops. In a month, he sold every last bottle. Five years later,” Food and Wine noted, “[it was] still hard for Hammerschlag, 33, to keep up with demand, though his portfolio of small producers in the southern Australian countryside” had expanded to 85 labels. Named “Wine Personality of the Year” by Robert M. Parker, Jr’s The Wine Advocate in 2005: “For a young man (early thirties), Hammerschlag has put together a remarkable portfolio of artisinal/hand-crafted Australian wines, primarily from the Barossa and McLaren Vale. He has a degree of enthusiasm, talent, and above all, wisdom, that belies his youthful age. We should all be thankful for the diverse group of wines that are now available in the United States because of the work of Ben Hammerschlag.” Jay McInerney highlighted his work in *A Hedonist in the Cellar: Adventures in Wine* in 2006 and again in *The Juice: Venous Veritas* in 2012 and his article solely about Hammerschlag for *House and Garden* magazine. Frank J. Priol in The New York Times “Wines of the Times” column said in 2002, “Consensus was rare in this tasting but everyone

agreed that a very young wine, a 2002 from Southeast Australia with the bizarre name Woop Woop, was our favorite. We gave it three stars...We found it to be a classic shiraz with beautiful balance and great structure.”

Hammerschlag created Woop Woop from grapes grown on his Australian vineyard. He was a graduate of Cornell’s School of Hotel Administration.

He is survived by his mother Mary Tabor, his father Alan Hammerschlag, sister, Sarah Hammerschlag, stepfather Del Persinger, stepmother Bonnie Hammerschlag, and Sarah’s husband Ryan Coyne and their daughter Lila Coyne and his two step sisters Rebecca Haskins and Jennifer Carter.

A Funeral Service will be held at Moles Farewell Tributes – Bellingham, 2465 Lakeway Dr, on Tuesday, November 7, 12:30pm.

Donations in his memory may be sent to the Lighthouse Mission, 910 W. Holly, Bellingham WA, 98225.

Tribute Wall

ML

“ To Ben’s family, we are so sorry for your loss. An exceptionally intelligent , kinder and gentler young man will be hard to find. We will miss him as a young and vibrant friend and neighbor.

Moiree and Paul Landgren - November 04, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CZ

“ I met Ben in 2002 when I was working as a foreign currency consultant and was helping him on a currency hedging strategy. We immediately connected when he discovered that I was a BCC grad. He had so much passion for his work. Although we never met in person — I could feel his enthusiasm and joy through the phone. So sad to hear of his passing. Sending loving wishes to the family.

Catherine Zaranis - November 04, 2017 at 12:00 AM