

**From The Fincastle Herald
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Local Wine Shop Announces International Certification

Kimberly Kolb Eakin and Larry Shaver, wine consultants at Wine Gourmet, recently passed the Certified Specialist of Wine (CSW) Exam. The Society of Wine Educators, an international, non-profit organization, held the exam in Washington, DC after Eakin and Shaver studied for 6 months. With a pass rate of 60%, there are only 212 specialists in the U.S.A. Gordon Kendall, Wine Gourmet's manager, passed the CSW Exam in 1997.

Designed for the wine industry by a team of wine educators, the CSW Exam evaluates the understanding of the core principles with which all wine professionals should be familiar. Topics include: viticulture, grape varieties, wine production, wine regions, and wine tasting.

"When I opened Wine Gourmet, I didn't just want a retail shop, I wanted an educational facility," said owner, Eakin. Believing in formal education, Eakin encouraged her staff to study for and pass the CSW Exam. "It was a tough exam. I'm just glad I passed it," said, Shaver, a retired Avon executive who works part-time at the shop.

Eakin, Kendall and Shaver are the only team of CSWs to lead monthly wine classes in a retail wine stop on the East Coast. "We love to teach and we love wine but certification has given us a new level of credibility," said Eakin. Wine Gourmet, located in the Botetourt Commons Shopping Center in Daleville, is the first specialty shop in Botetourt to offer wine, beer, gourmet food and cigars. Specializing in high-quality wines under \$12.00, Wine Gourmet has been named "Best New Shop 2002" by the readers of The Roanoker and given 4 Stars for "Best Wine Shop" from the readers of City Magazine.