

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2025

VISTAS

MAGAZINE

12
SOCIAL
WINE CLUBS
TO JOIN

WINEMAKER
PHIL LONG
EMBRACES CULTURE
& COMMUNITY

The
BURNS BROTHERS
REWRITE THE RULES
OF HOSPITALITY

THE BELONGING ISSUE

A CULTURAL EXPLORATION OF FOOD, WINE, & LIVING WELL



SIPPING WITH STEPHANIE

BY VISTAS STAFF

Founded by Stephanie Browne, Sipping Sense curates luxury experiences that seamlessly weave together wine, food, and cultural history across diverse regions and communities. These intimate journeys blend indulgence with education through small-group exploration, hands-on engagement, and rich storytelling. By centering underrepresented voices—Black, Indigenous, immigrant, and women vintners, chefs, and historians—Browne designs experiences that not only delight the senses but also deepen appreciation for the people and places shaping today's wine and culinary landscape.

At its core, Sipping Sense is about connection. Browne's work fosters lasting relationships while fueling growth for small businesses and boutique entrepreneurs, helping to create jobs and advance a more inclusive and equitable wine industry.

Browne is also the creator and host of the Sips N Swigs podcast and the author of *Sipping Sense: Uncorking the Flavors of Wine, Entertaining, and Healthy Cooking*, which was featured at the 2025 Martha's Vineyard Black Book Festival. Her impact in wine education spans decades. In 1998, she co-founded Divas Uncorked, a pioneering wine social club that made wine education approachable, engaging, and inclusive. The collective later launched one of the few women-owned wine labels and, in 2006, made history as the first Black oenophiles invited to open South Africa's prestigious Cape Fine & Rare Wine Auction. Browne's work and influence have been recognized by *O Magazine*, *The Today Show*, *Newsweek*, and *Heart & Soul*.

This past August, Browne brought the Sipping Sense experience to **Martha's Vineyard** through two distinctive and thoughtfully curated events.

The Sunset Wine Crawl

A fresh concept for the island, the Sunset Wine Crawl guided guests through three stops across three towns, featuring four boutique wine and spirits producers and culminating in the iconic Menemsha sunset. Guests explored the island's hidden charm while tasting stories in a glass, including Inkwell Pinot Noir by Alicia Towns Franken; sparkling, Grenache, and Zinfandel wines from Brenae Royal's Violets Paradise; Pinot Grigio and Riesling from Chrishon Lampley's The Lampley; and Amber James's Velisa Chenin Blanc and Cabernet Sauvignon. The experience was rounded out with spirits from NE Sweetwater Farm and Distillery, founded by Alisa Lawrence and Nilaja Young. Thoughtful pairings were provided by Top Shell Oyster Farm, Beach Plum Inn, and Sipping Sense, creating a seamless blend of place, flavor, and narrative.

An Evening of Wine & Connection

The weekend concluded with an intimate wine-pairing dinner highlighting the wines of Violets Paradise. Each course was paired by Browne with dishes prepared by Chef Lori Edmonds, an island-based caterer celebrated for her refined homestyle approach. The evening served as a warm and elegant celebration of cuisine, culture, and community—hallmarks of the Sipping Sense philosophy.

For more information about Stephanie Browne and Sipping Sense, visit www.sippingsense.com or connect on Instagram @sipping_sense and Facebook at Sipping Sense.



Through each experience, Stephanie Browne continues to redefine luxury by centering education, inclusivity, and storytelling—proving that wine is not just something to taste, but something to understand and share.

