



German American
Chambers of Commerce
Deutsch-Amerikanische
Handelskammern

German American Chamber of Commerce,
Colorado Chapter
1127 Auraria Parkway, Suite 6
Denver, Colorado 80204
Phone: (303) 837-1146 | Email: info@gacc-co.org
www.gacc-co.org

German Agricultural Technology Symposium National Western Complex | Denver, CO Thursday, September 19, 2019 | 10:30am – 6:00pm

IGNITE Talks

Sparking conversation with a short, fast-paced presentation style and engaging topics, our IGNITE speakers will inspire you to connect with attendees about common strengths and challenges in the Agri-Tech industry.

Coffee Break – “From Grapes to Wrath: Wine Within the Age of Climate Change”



Simone FM Spinner
Author & Educator
[Wine Rocks & Chasing Grapes](#)

Simone is a wine expert who teaches the Get into the Glass educational wine series to the public through her company, Wine Rocks, LLC. She is also developing a unique adventure and wine tourism program called Chasing Grapes, LLC. Launching in 2019, the program will explore the world of wine through tours of Portugal, Spain, Italy, France, and Germany, taking along any curious oenophiles who care to join.

Simone is also working on her doctorate exploring the aesthetics of wine along with the effects of climate change on global wine culture. Simone is the author of *Denver Food: A Culinary Evolution*, and is currently writing two other books: *Lessons from the Lisbon Coast* and *Chasing Grapes*.

Happy Hour Reception – “From Dirt to DNA & Back to Dirt”



Robert Sakata
Owner
[Sakata Farms](#)

Robert Sakata is the owner of Sakata Farms in Brighton Colorado which was started by his father Bob who at 93 years old still goes to the office almost every day. Growing up on the family farm his parents were a great example of how important involvement in the community is. Following in their footsteps, Robert is founding President of the board of directors for the Colorado Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association, which aims to fill a need for a common voice representing produce

growers across the state. Robert also serves on the board of directors of the Colorado Water Congress, the Fulton Irrigation Company, and is the president of the New Brantner Irrigation Ditch Company. He also serves on the Board of Trustees for the National Onion Association as well as the Colorado Agriculture Water Alliance executive committee, and was recently appointed by Governor Polis to the Inter Basin Compact Committee. Robert served the state of Colorado on the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) for 15 years appointed by three different Governors. The WQCC is charged with setting the water quality standards protecting



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designated uses for waters of the State. While studying at the Molecular Cellular & Developmental Biology department at University of Colorado Robert worked for AMGEN when they opened their research labs in Boulder. Currently Sakata Farms grows dry bulb onions, winter wheat, grain corn, pinto beans and barley on his family farm.