

# The Washington Post

Food • Perspective

## A special wine can change your perspective forever. What was your epiphany bottle?

By [Dave McIntyre](#) April 30, 2021

**What was your epiphany wine?** We've all had these moments: A novel inspires a lifelong love of literature. A recording drives us to explore a new genre of music. A painting captivates you to linger until the museum closes, to see it in different light and without crowds blocking your view. A bite of food in a cafe during an overseas vacation ignites your curiosity about a new world of flavors. A sip of wine seems to magically combine sun and earth in an elixir that opens a portal to new sensations and emotions.

**Kimberly Charles** was studying history at Georgetown University in 1984 with dreams of a career in world diplomacy. While working part time at the wine bar in the Sheraton Carlton hotel in D.C. she tasted a 1982 Château Calon-Ségur, a leading wine from Bordeaux's Saint-Estèphe appellation from what would soon be considered a "vintage of the century."

"I realized the 3-D effect of wine past and present, and decided to join the wine business, not the Foreign Service," she says. Now based in San Francisco, Charles leads her own public relations firm, Charles Communications Associates, specializing in representing wineries.

