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Interview with Vitalii Dascaluc, Sommelier & Wine Educator

NYWGF: When was the moment you fell in love with wine/wine industry?

VD: Wine has been a part of my life since I can remember. As a kid, I would spend every summer at my grandparent's village house in Moldova. Whenever we had guests, I was in charge of running down to the cellar and filling up the clay carafe with wine straight from the barrels. I was very proud of my role, and once in a while, I was allowed to make a toast and have a drop of wine.

NYWGF: What's your best experience/event since you've been part of the industry?

VD: I would have to say that to this day my favorite experience was one of my trips to the Finger Lakes that was organized by New York Wine & Grape Foundation in 2016. I was extremely fortunate to be able to fly in the passenger seat of a 1957 Piper airplane flown by Christ Stamp, owner of Lakewood Vineyards. Seeing the Finger Lakes from a bird's-eye view was incredible.

NYWGF: What's the one wine you can't live without?

VD: Champagne, definitely Champagne!

NYWGF: What do you think is going to be the next big wine trend?

VD: I believe it will be canned wine. Cans are convenient and easy to recycle. I would personally love to see a canned Lambrusco style wine.

NYWGF: What would your "words of wisdom" be to someone who wants to have fun/learn more about wine?

VD: Every wine deserves the chance to impress you. Not every wine will, but in the right context, even a \$5 bottle of Vinho Verde can offer a mind-blowing experience.

