



Dr. Audrey Cross, PhD, JD, MPH

Audrey Cross-Gambino Vintner

Audrey's family teases her that you simply cannot take the farm out of the girl - much as she tried.

She grew up on a ranch in Delhi, California surrounded by peaches, almonds and grapes - both raisin and wine. While it was a "wonderful" life, from her earliest memories she wanted to "get the hell out of Delhi." She longed for bright lights and big cities. Her ticket out was education—all from the University of California, Berkeley.

BS - Bachelor of Science, Nutrition

MPH - Master of Public Health

PhD, - Doctor of Philosophy, nutrition & public policy

JD - Juris Doctorate, Hastings College of the Law, U.C. San Francisco

Throughout her careers, her passion was always insuring that people made the best nutritional choices—whatever their circumstances.

In her first position as **Nutritionist, Maternity & Infant Care Program, San Francisco Department of Health**, she worked to improve maternal nutrition, encourage breastfeeding and improve infant and early childhood nutrition. She soon learned that those vulnerable to nutritional risks, often lacked access to adequate food resources.

Whereupon, she moved into politics as **Consultant, California State Senate Select Committee on Nutrition & Human Needs** under Senator George Moscone. There she helped pass legislation that lives on today as the "Moscone Nickel" supporting school meals for kids, the WIC program in California (Women, Infants, Children Program) and a system of health care for California Indians who were disenfranchised from services under the federal Indian health act.

Commuting to Washington, DC, she consulted with the US Senate Select Committee on Nutrition & Human Needs under Senator George McGovern as they attempted to develop dietary recommendations for Americans. Which lead to her appointment as **Nutrition Coordinator, United States Department of Agriculture under President Carter**. There she oversaw writing of the 1st U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans, the first food guide pyramid, introduced reforms to the National School Lunch program to provide more fresh, local fruits & vegetables in the program and further expanded the WIC program.

When President Carter lost the election, she moved to New York City to pursue both academic and television careers.

As **Professor, Columbia University, School of Public Health & Institute of Human Nutrition**, she worked to "enroll soldiers in my army" to end health and nutrition injustices and to change public knowledge and behavior in food choices and actions. She taught courses in Public Health Law & Policy, Domestic & International Food Programs and Health Communications, Social Marketing & the Media.

During her academic tenure, she consulted with domestic governments and international organizations (PAHO, WHO, USAID) to create food and nutrition laws to enhance, protect and expand domestic and international food supplies and consumer access in other countries.

Throughout her time at Columbia she also became a **nationally known nutrition expert** regularly quoted in magazines and newspapers and appearing on major television and news casts. She also became a regular on network shows and ultimately hosted her own television shows.

Nutrition Correspondent, Good Morning America

Nutrition Correspondent, CBS This Morning

Nutrition co-anchor, Sports Medicine, The Learning Channel

Nutrition Host, Cornucopia, PM/Evening Magazine

Nutrition Correspondent, America's Health, MSNBC

Host of her own show, Ask the Dietitian, America's Health Network

In 2001 she and husband Steve Gambino decided they had enough of city life. She wanted to return to the farm!! They purchased 104 acres and she got yet another degree - this one in wine making from the University of California, Davis. At the time she was the only female winemaker in NJ.

Today, in addition to making wine, she has a small law practice assisting others who want to join the wine industry in navigating the various rules, regulations and requirements of becoming a bonded winery.