

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Annual Washington State Wine Awards Recognize Industry Champions**  
*Washington State Wine Toasts Businesses and Individuals who make Washington wine shine*

SEATTLE (Jan. 27, 2015) – Monday’s well-attended 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Washington State Wine Awards [#wawineawards] celebrated restaurants, retailers, tourism professionals and distributors whose work raises the profile of Washington State wine throughout the state and beyond. Winners were selected from more than 130 nominations, a record number of submissions, and were chosen for their impressive menus, innovative educational programs and marketing efforts, and commitment to excellent service.

The Washington State Restaurant, Retailer and Tourism Champions of the Year are the most prestigious awards, recognizing industry leaders who show the strongest support for Washington State wine. Meanwhile, the Washington State Wine Grand Award and Award of Distinction commends individuals and organizations that designate menu and wine list space for Washington State wines while providing ongoing promotion and education.

*“The winners of the Washington State Wine Awards perform a vital role in shaping Washington State as both a favored destination and a favored home for those who enjoy premium wines with superior quality,”* said Steve Warner, President of Washington State Wine.

In all, 15 businesses and individuals were singled out as champions within their industries and will be featured in a full-page ad in 10 key publications: Food & Wine, Elle Décor, Real Simple, Town & Country, Travel & Leisure, Seattle Met, Seattletimes.com, SIP Northwest, as well as the 2015 Washington State Wine Tour Guide.

Winners received prizes ranging from certificates and wine carriers to etched magnums. Two recipients were awarded custom goblets designed by glassblowing studio Art By Fire in Issaquah.

Master Sommelier Rob Bigelow emceed the event, during which attendees were able to taste wines from more than 60 Washington State vintners.

**2015 WASHINGTON STATE WINE AWARD WINNERS**

**Restaurant of the Year:** Aqua by El Gaucho

**Independent Restaurant of the Year:** Cypress Lounge & Wine Bar @ The Westin Bellevue

**Restaurant Group of the Year:** Anthony’s Restaurants

**Sommelier of the Year:** Chris Horn (Purple Café & Wine Bar)

**Best Event Featuring Washington State Wine:** Washington Wine Extravaganza – Wine World & Spirits

**Retailer of the Year:** Full Pull Wines

**Independent Retailer of the Year:** Impulsewine.com

**Retailer Chain of the Year:** Costco Wholesale

**Retail Steward of the Year:** Carly Little (QFC, Bellevue Village)

**Hotel of the Year:** Marcus Whitman Hotel & Conference Center

**Tourism Champion of the Year:** Yakima Valley Tourism

**Tourism Concierge of the Year:** Dan Salvatora (Hotel Monaco)

**Distributor of the Year:** Young’s Market Company

**Distributor Salesperson of the Year:** Walid Akiki (Young’s Market Company)

**Walter Clore Honorarium:** Dan McCarthy (McCarthy & Schiering)

*The Walter Clore Honorarium recognizes an individual who has demonstrated dedication to the advancement of the Washington wine industry.*

**2015 GRAND AWARDS:**

Anthony's @ Columbia Point  
Anthony's Pier 66  
Anthony's @ the Old Mill  
Anthony's Hearthfire Grill  
Barking Frog at Willows Lodge  
Big Fish Grill  
Blackfish Wild Salmon Grill & Bar  
blueacre Seafood  
Cafe Veloce  
Canlis  
Castle Event Catering  
Chandler's Crabhouse  
Collections Café  
Copperleaf Reastaurant at Cedarbrook Lodge  
Daniel's Broiler Prime Steaks and Chops  
El Gaucho Bellevue  
El Gaucho Seattle  
El Gaucho Tacoma  
FAR-EATS  
Fountain Wine Bar  
Inn at Ship Bay  
Ivar's Mukilteo Landing Restaurant  
Joule  
Mackay Restaurants  
Masselow's  
Pearl  
Pike Brewing Company  
Rays Boathouse  
Russell's Restaurant & Loft  
SkyCity at the Needle  
Spazzo Italian Grill & Wine Bar  
Sullivan's  
Sun Mountain Lodge  
Swing Wine Bar  
The Fireside  
The Marc Restaurant  
Trellis Restuarant  
Tulalip Bay Dining  
Valley Cafe of Ellensburg  
Vino At The Landing  
Vino Volo Seatac  
Visconti's Italian Restaurant  
Visconti's of Leavenworth  
WAC - Washington Athletic Club  
Waterstreet Café + Bar  
Herbfarm  
RN74  
Bin 41  
Compass Wines  
Grand Vin Wine Merchants  
Town & Country Markets, Inc.  
Total Wine & More  
Corks and Canvas Events  
Courtyard by Marriott Richland Columbia Point  
EverGreen Escapes  
Hotel Vintage  
Pike Place Market Foundation  
Seattle Theatre Group - Paramount Theatre  
Seattle Wine and Food Experience  
Sound Excursions  
Visit Seattle  
Visit TRI-CITIES  
Bon Vivant Wine Tours  
Seattle Uncorked - Belltown Crush  
Willows Lodge  
Omni Hotels & Resorts

**2015 AWARDS OF DISTINCTION:**

Acqua Via  
Adriatic Grill Italian Cuisine & Wine Bar  
Breadline Cafe  
Bridgewater Bistro  
Cafe Juanita  
Churchill's Steakhouse  
Dragonfish Asian Cafe  
Duke's Chowder House  
Etta's  
Ivar's Acres of Clams  
Lloyd Martin  
LOCAL 360  
MistralKitchen  
Morso  
Nordstrom  
North City Bistro and Wine Shop  
Packers Oyster Bar at Semiahmoo  
Palomino Rustico Bellevue  
Palomino Seattle  
Portals  
Purple Cafe and Wine Bar Bellevue  
Purple Cafe and Wine Bar Kirkland  
Purple Cafe and Wine Bar Seattle  
Purple Cafe and Wine Bar Woodinville  
Rediviva Restaurant  
Reds Wine Bar  
Salty's On Alki  
Six Seven  
Steelhead Diner  
TASTE Restaurant  
The Barrel Thief  
The Lincoln Center  
The Rainier Club  
The Triple Door  
Tini Bigs  
TRACE  
Volterra  
Washington State Convention Center  
Wild Ginger  
All Things Wine  
The Wine Alley



### **About Washington State Wine:**

Washington State Wine represents every licensed winery and wine grape grower in Washington State. Guided by an appointed board, WSW provides a marketing platform to raise positive awareness of the Washington State wine industry and generate greater demand for its wines. Funded almost entirely by the industry through assessments based on grape and wine sales, WSW is a state government agency, established by the legislature in 1987. To learn more, visit [www.washingtonwine.org](http://www.washingtonwine.org).

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