

## Past Unity Award Winners

**The Jim Trezise Lifetime Achievement Award** This award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated a lifelong commitment to the New York wine and grape industry and made impactful contributions that advanced the industry. Awarded for the first time in 2018 to Jim Trezise.

**Phyllis Feder Unity Award:** This award was established in 1990 and recognizes individuals who have volunteered their time, shown exceptional leadership, and achieved recognized results in building industry co-operation and unity. This award is now named in honor of Phyllis Feder. Past recipients include:

- Bert Silk, the first chairman of NYWGF
- Seaton “Zeke” Mendall, former president of the New York State Wine Grape Growers
- Monty Stamp, long-time secretary of the New York State Wine Grape Growers (NYSWGG)
- Vince Bedient, a NYSWGG director for over 20 years as well as the organization’s past president
- Martha Borgeson, former Deputy Commissioner of the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets
- Doug Knapp, former NYSWGG president and organizer of the first two editions of the Finger Lakes Wine Festival
- Maxine Fullagar, President of Women for New York State Wines
- Dr. Herodotus Damianos, owner of Pindar Vineyards and Duck Walk Vineyards
- Art & Joyce Hunt, co-owners of Hunt Country Vineyards
- John Brahm III, of Arbor Hill Grapery
- Gene Pierce, Past Chairman, NYWGF
- John & Ann Martini of Anthony Road Wine Company
- Neil Simmons of Simmons Vineyards and former Chairman of the Foundation
- Marco Borghese of Castello di Borghese Vineyards on Long Island
- Nathan Rudgers, former Commissioner of the NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets
- Ruth Moore, former First Deputy Commissioner of the NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets
- Tom Davenport of National Grape Cooperative
- Liz Stamp, Owner/Public Relations, Lakewood Vineyards
- Bob Madill, Sheldrake Point Vineyards
- Rory Callahan, Wine & Food Associates
- Pete Saltonstall, King Ferry Winery
- Richard Olsen-Harbich, Bedell Cellars
- Phyllis Feder, Past Board Chair of the Foundation and Clinton Vineyards

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- Roman Roth, Wölffer Estate Vineyard & The Grapes of Roth
- Trent Preszler, CEO of Bedell Cellars
- Larry Perrine, Past NYWGF Board Member & Channing Daughters Winery
- Alice Wise, Sr. Resource Educator, Viticulturist, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County

**Jim Finkle Industry Award:** This award is intentionally broad in scope in order to recognize outstanding achievements in aspects of the industry not directly covered by the Unity and other awards. The area may be marketing, promotion, legislative, organizational or other. Starting in 2016, this award was named in honor of Jim Finkle.

- Marvin Sands of Canandaigua Brands
- John Dyson of Millbrook Vineyards
- Bill Wagner of Wagner Vineyards
- Eastman Beers, former owner of Springledge Farms
- Tom Davenport of the National Grape Cooperative
- NYS Senator John “Randy” Kuhl
- Juanita Spence, retired from NYSWG and NYWGF
- Willy Frank of Dr. Konstantin Frank’s Vinifera Wine Cellars and Chateau Frank
- Elvin Tyler, long time grape grower and industry leader
- Hermann J. Wiemer, of Hermann J. Wiemer Vineyards
- Mark James of NY Farm Bureau
- Scott Osborn of Fox Run Vineyards
- Julie Suarez of New York Farm Bureau
- Barbara Adams, former Executive Director of the Seneca Lake Wine Trail
- Bill Magee, New York State Assemblyman and Chair of the Agriculture Committee
- Catharine Young, New York State Senator, Chair Senate Agricultural Committee
- Waterloo Container
- New York State Wine Grape Growers
- Patrick Hooker, former Commissioner of Agriculture & Markets
- Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Dennis Rosen, former Commissioner of the New York State Liquor Authority
- Rich Erdle, National Grape Cooperative (retired)
- Rich Stabins, Constellation Brands
- Dan Mitchell, Fox Run Vineyards
- Jay Hardenburg. As a 30-year employee of National Grape
- Liz Stamp, Lakewood Vineyards

**The Grower Award:** Given for the first time in 1993, this award recognizes an individual for dedication and contributions to the New York grape industry. Recipients have been:

- Ernest Pinneo of Keuka Lake
- Warren “Baldy” Morse of Keuka Lake
- Jim Hazlitt of Seneca Lake
- June Pendleton of Rushville (former NYSWGG President)
- Monty Stamp of Seneca Lake
- Ron Guzzetta of Western New York
- Phyllis Bauer of Keuka Lake
- Doug Miles of Seneca Lake
- Louis & Donna Gridley of Keuka Lake
- The Tones Family of Clearview Farms
- The Simmons Family of Simmons Vineyards
- Steve Mudd, Mudd Vineyards
- Herman Amberg, Grafted Grapevine Nursery
- Jim Joy, JM Joy Farms
- Richard Gerome, Jerome’s U-Pick
- Michael Migliore, Whitecliff Vineyard
- Sayre Fulkerson Fulkerson Winery
- John Graziano, Millbrook Vineyards & Winery
- David Mudd of Mudd Vineyards on Long Island
- Dennis Rak of Western NY
- Vince Bedient of Bedient Vineyards
- Jim Bedient in the Finger Lakes
- Tina Hazlitt, Sawmill Creek Vineyard of the Finger Lakes
- John and Josephine Ingle, Heron Hill Winery

**The Winery Award** Since 2002, we have presented a Winery Award, which recognizes major contributions in advancing the image and reputation of the New York wine industry. Recipients have been:

- Swedish Hill Vineyards of Cayuga Lake
- Millbrook Vineyards and Winery of the Hudson River Region
- Paumanok Vineyards of Long Island
- Wagner Vineyards of Seneca Lake
- Thousand Islands Winery
- Glenora Wine Cellars
- Wölffer Estate Vineyard of Long Island

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- Red Newt Cellars of Seneca Lake
- Dr. Konstantin Frank Wine Cellars of Keuka Lake
- Fox Run Vineyards
- Liberty Vineyards & Winery
- Coyote Moon Vineyards
- Bedell Cellars

**Research Award:** This award recognizes major contributions in the area of grape growing, processing, and wine research, and may be presented to scientists, industry members or others. Past recipients:

- Charles Fournier & Dr. Konstantin Frank
- Dr. Curtis Ellison of Boston University Medical Center
- Nelson Shaulis, PhD Alan Lakso, PhD
- Fred Taschenberg, PhD Dean Susan Henry of Cornell University
- Mary Plane The Vineyard Laboratory at Fredonia
- Tim Dennehy, PhD Tim Martinson, PhD
- Thomas Henick-Kling, PhD Terry Bates, PhD
- Robert Pool, PhD Wayne Wilcox, PhD
- Bruce Reisch, PhD Dr. Andrew Landers, PhD
- Leroy Creasy, PhD Dr. Greg Loeb, PhD
- Thomas Zabadal, PhD Dr. Martin Goffinet, PhD
- Alice Wise Dr. Brad Rickard, PhD
- K. Helen Fisher, University of Guelph Dr. Marc Fuchs
- Ming Mei Chang Justine Vanden Heuvel
- Marilyn Konopka of Constellation Brand
- Cornell AgriTech

**Restaurant Award:** This award recognizes excellence in promoting New York wines in a fine dining experience. Previous winners:

- Pierces 1894 Restaurant in Elmira Heights
- The Desmond in Albany
- The Hudson River Club in New York City
- Turback's of Ithaca
- Ross' North Fork Restaurant of Southold
- Belhurst Castle in Geneva
- Home Restaurant in New York City

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- The Prospect Restaurant at Scribner Hollow Lodge in Hunter
- The Village Tavern in Hammondsport
- Carmine's in Albany
- Gramercy Tavern in New York City
- Thomas Pastuszak in New York City
- The Asa Ransom House in Buffalo
- The View at the Marriott Marquis
- Ports Café in Geneva
- Chuck Hunt of the New York State Restaurant Association
- Red Newt Bistro in Hector
- Megu in New York City
- The Taste of New York Restaurant, New York Wine & Culinary Center
- Suzanne Fine Regional Cuisine in Lodi
- Blue Pointe Grille at the Watkins Glen Harbor Hotel
- Tom Schaudel, Alure, aMano, Jewel, Petulant Wino
- The Marshal in New York City
- Graft wine + cider bar in the Finger Lakes
- The Tailor and the Cook, Utica

**Retailer Award:** This award is presented to wine stores which do an exceptional job in educating consumers about the quality and variety of New York wines. Previous winners:

- Northside Wines & Spirits, Ithaca
- House of Bacchus, Rochester
- GCP Discount Liquors, Horseheads
- McAdam Buy Rite, New York City
- Wines & Spirits of Slingerlands
- Century Discount Wines & Liquors, Pittsford
- Vintage New York, Manhattan
- The Wine Sellar, Buffalo
- Zachys, Westchester
- Astor Wines & Spirits, New York City
- Burt Notarius of Prime Wines Corporation, Western NY
- Altamont Wine & Liquors, Altamont
- Marketview Liquor, Rochester
- The Greene Grape, New York City
- Bombace Wine & Spirits, Don Bombace, Farmington
- The Wine Room, Neil Kratzer, Buffalo
- Jay Roelof of Suburban Wines & Spirits, Yorktown Heights
- Ryan's Wine & Spirits, Canandaigua
- Whole Foods Market Wine Store, New York City
- Pedulla's Wine and Liquor
- Exit 9 Wine & Liquor Warehouse, Albany

**Ron Reals Distributor Award:** This award, was first presented in 2005 to recognize achievement in distributing and promoting New York wines. Starting in 2016, this award was named in honor of Ron Reals. It has previously been awarded to:

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- Ron Reals of Finger Lakes Premium Wines
- Gretchen Geiger
- Sandy Waters of Eber Brothers
- Upstate Wine Company
- Bill Crandall of Eber Brothers
- Phil Adams
- Opici Wine Group
- Dina Opici
- Winebow
- New York Wines Sarl, Luxembourg
- Cheryl Dianetti
- John Iszard of Opici Family Distributors
- Mike Lofgren of Empire Merchants Nort

**Consumer Award:** Established in 1998 for “enthusiastic” support of the New York wines industry and for exemplifying the use of wine as part of a happy, healthy lifestyle. Past recipients have been:

- George Tillson
- Chuck & Grace Lincoln
- Dottie & Joe Mugavero
- Lynne Montgomery
- Michael Warren Thomas
- Dick Ehrlich
- Mike Rusinko & Carol Chester
- Phyllis Bauer
- Charlene Ryder
- Women for New York State Wines
- Peter Parts
- Bob Lewis
- June Phillips
- Thomas Pellechia
- Cheryl Gnade-McGrattan
- Judi Betts
- Lorraine Hems
- Tracy Schuhmacher, Democrat & Chronicle
- Don Cazentre of *NYup.com*

**Sustainability Award** Given for the first time in 2019, the Sustainability Award recognizes an organization or business that has demonstrated noteworthy sustainable practices and a commitment to conserving natural resources, protecting our environment, and contributing to the overall success of the New York State economy. The winner of the first Sustainability Award was **Long Island Sustainable Winegrowing (LISW)**.