The California Association of Winegrape Growers (CAWG) AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM is meant to spotlight exceptional people who have benefitted the broader community of winegrape growers through exemplary leadership and outstanding commitment to the well-being of the winegrowing industry, California communities and the environment.

WHO CAN NOMINATE?
Award nominations can be made by individuals or organizations using the nomination form provided by CAWG. The identity of the nominators is not made public, but will be known by the nominee and judges. The nominator can only put forward one nominee per “Award Category,” annually.

AWARD WINNERS RECEIVE
Award winners are invited to attend a dinner in their honor, to take place on Tuesday, June 25th, at the Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn, during CAWG’s Annual Summer Conference. They will receive a one-night hotel stay on the same evening.

PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS
GROWER OF THE YEAR
John Kautz, John Kautz Family; Steve McIntyre, Monterey Pacific; The Ledbetter Family; Andy Beckstoffer, Beckstoffer Vineyards; Jerry and Bruce Fry, Mohr-Fry Ranches; Brad & Randy Lange, LangeTwins Family Winery & Vineyards; and Steve Schafer, Schafer Ranch.

LEADER OF THE YEAR
Nat DiBuduo, Allied Grape Growers; Ben Drake, Drake Enterprises; Richard Kheen; Volker Eisele, Volker Eisele Family Estate; Richard Smith, Smith Family Wines; Al Scheid, Scheid Vineyards; and Karissa Kruse, Sonoma Winegrowers.

JUDGING PROCEDURE
Entries will be reviewed and scored by the CAWG Board of Directors’ Member Services and Communications Committee based on the criteria indicated on the nomination forms. Nominations with the highest scores will be recommended to the CAWG Board of Directors’ Executive Committee for final selection. In judging nominees, the Committee will be mindful of variations among businesses in financial resources, staff capacity, regional locations, etc. Any Committee member with a conflict of interest associated with judging a nominee must abstain from judging any proposals from that round of the selection process.

Send written nomination form(s) to CAWG, attention Natalie Collins:

BY FAX (916) 379-8999
BY EMAIL natalie@cawg.org
Nomination forms can be downloaded online at: www.cawg.org

QUESTIONS: Please contact Natalie Collins via email or phone (916-379-8995)

NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 12, 2019
The Leader of the Year Award is an award given to an individual whose record of exceptional leadership has benefitted California’s wine industry. By giving this award, the association seeks to recognize and promote an outstanding example of leadership for the purpose of bringing credit to the industry and inspiring others to lead as well.

This award is exclusive to CAWG members. Nominees must be an individual who is a grower or is associated with a winegrape growing operation. Consideration will be given only to nominations that clearly address the criteria listed on this form. Nominations or endorsements received after the submission deadline shall not be permitted.

Information about you, the Sponsor:
Name: ________________________________
Company: ____________________________
Phone: _______________________________
Email: _______________________________

Information about the nominee:
Name: ________________________________
Company: ____________________________
Phone: _______________________________
Email: _______________________________

Nomination Criteria
• Demonstrated an outstanding personal commitment to an issue or issues of significant importance to winegrape growers
• Has successfully and effectively represented industry interests before policymakers at the local, state or federal levels of government
• Achieved identifiable and lasting changes to promote and protect the interests of California winegrape growers
• Has proactively advocated for adoption of business, viticultural or environmental practices that have contributed to the industry’s overall success

Submission Requirement Checklist
☑ Completed Leader of the Year Award nomination form (this form)
☑ A one-page nomination letter or statement by CAWG grower or associate member initiating nomination
☑ A biography of the candidate not to exceed one page; a statement of contributions should be included in the biography
☐ (Optional) Exhibits or materials in support of the nominee that best demonstrate the outstanding accomplishments
☐ (Optional) A maximum of three letters of support by those who know the quality of the nominee’s work or service; letters should be explicit in their recommendation and contain specific reasons for support

SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATION
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BY EMAIL natalie@cawg.org
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