



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CAWG Calls on Industry to Nominate Leaders Making a Difference  
as Part of 2027 Awards of Excellence Program**  
*Nominations Open Through June 5*

**SACRAMENTO, May 1, 2026** – At a time when California’s winegrape industry is navigating significant challenges, the California Association of Winegrape Growers (CAWG) is calling on growers and industry members to recognize and celebrate those who are stepping up and making a difference.

CAWG is now accepting nominations for the 2027 Awards of Excellence Program – an opportunity to highlight the individuals and operations driving the industry forward through innovation, leadership, and resilience. Each year, CAWG presents two awards honoring excellence in winegrowing and industry leadership.

“These awards shine a spotlight on the people who are not only meeting today’s challenges but rethinking what’s possible for the future of our industry,” said CAWG President Natalie Collins. “Across California, individuals and operations are going above and beyond, and this is an opportunity for the industry to recognize and lift up their peers.”

The Grower of the Year Award, the highest honor bestowed by CAWG, recognizes individuals, families, or companies who exemplify excellence in viticulture and vineyard management through innovative practices, industry leadership, and consistent production of high-quality winegrapes.

The Leader of the Year Award honors exceptional individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary leadership and made significant contributions to California’s wine industry, including advancing public policy and championing issues critical to winegrape growers.

CAWG encourages winegrape growers, wineries, and industry partners to nominate colleagues, mentors, and peers whose work is helping move the industry forward.

Award recipients will be honored at a reception during the Unified Wine and Grape Symposium in Sacramento on January 26, 2027.

Nominations for the 2027 Awards of Excellence Program are open through June 5, 2026. To submit a nomination or learn more, visit [cawg.org](https://cawg.org).

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**About the California Association of Winegrape Growers:** CAWG is a statewide nonprofit trade association advocating for California's winegrape growers to ensure the sustainability of the winegrape industry. CAWG promotes the industry’s long-term success by advancing the adoption of sound public policies and fostering awareness and understanding of winegrape growers’ contributions to the economy, environment, and California communities. Learn more at [cawg.org](https://cawg.org).