AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

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.

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.

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.

How to Sponsor a Nomination
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 Grower of the Year Award is the highest honor given by the California Association of Winegrape Growers (CAWG). The award is bestowed annually to an individual, family or company who represents an outstanding example of excellence in viticulture and management, and is recognized by others for innovation and leadership within the industry. A central purpose for bestowing the Grower of the Year Award is to identify and promote outstanding examples of efficient, successful producers of quality California winegrapes.

This award is exclusive to CAWG members only. Nominees may be an individual, family or company. 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.

**Nomination Form**

**Information about you, the Sponsor:**

Name: ________________________________

Company: ________________________________

Phone: ________________________________

Email: ________________________________

**Information about the nominee:**

Name: ________________________________

Company: ________________________________

Phone: ________________________________

Email: ________________________________

**Nomination Criteria**

- Recognized by growers and wineries as an efficient, successful producer of quality winegrapes (without regard to price point)
- Contributed to the success of other growers
- Demonstrates a commitment to adoption of new technologies, processes or innovations to improve winegrape quality and/or profitability
- Demonstrates a commitment to community well-being
- Demonstrates a commitment to the well-being of vineyard workers
- Demonstrates a commitment to enhancing the environmental benefits of winegrape production
- Contributed to the awareness and market success of a winegrape varietal(s) or an appellation

**Submission Requirement Checklist**

- Completed Grower 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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