



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **WASHINGTON WINEGROWERS ANNOUNCES HONORS**

The Washington Winegrowers Association recognized achievements of industry leaders at an Honor Reception during their Convention in Kennewick earlier this month. The annual awards included for Grower of the Year, Industry Service, Lifetime Achievement, and the new Grand Vin award. About 2,000 state, national, and international participants from the grape and wine industry attended.

### **GROWER OF THE YEAR**

**Marshall Edwards**, vineyard operations manager of Quintessence, received the Erick Hanson Memorial Wine Grape Grower Award for demonstrated viticultural skills that provide impact in the vineyard and in the bottle. Edwards played a significant role in some of Washington's largest vineyards—notably for Ste. Michelle where he found success in the challenging terrain at Canoe Ridge Estate in the Horse Heaven Hills. He is a great influence in the way a vineyard is planned and planted, and has had a huge impact on technology in the area. Edwards was the first to use GPS technology to plan new vineyards. He has built a reputation as an industry expert with deeply rooted relationships throughout his field.

### **INDUSTRY SERVICE**

**Joy Andersen**, winemaker at Snoqualmie Vineyards, received the Industry Service Award for her pioneering spirit in the wine industry. Andersen was one of the first women in Washington's fledging wine industry in the 1980s and helped pave the way for women in the Washington wine industry. With a degree in chemistry from the University of Washington, Andersen is known for her scientific approach to winemaking and never shelters her knowledge from others. With her passion for research and learning, Andersen has become the go-to-person for questions about organic winemaking. She has taken primary leadership in drawing awareness to and encouraging improvement of sustainable practices in Washington wineries, an initiative that bore fruit in 2012 when the website winerywise.org was launched.

### **LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT**

**Norm McKibben**, managing partner at Pepper Bridge Winery, received the Lifetime Achievement Award to recognize work as a pioneer of the Washington grape and wine industry. McKibben is one of the state's most respected vineyard experts with over 30 years of experience. He is credited for the boom of Walla Walla Valley's growth from 40 acres to an acclaimed appellation with more than 2,800 acres of premium grapes today. He is known for his endless energy and drive, and is widely recognized as an innovator. As a forward thinker, he is a champion of sustainable viticulture—all of his vineyards are certified sustainable by VINEA and LIVE. McKibben has Chaired the Washington State Wine Commission, was co-founder of Vinea, founder of Quality Compost, founder of W2U (annual wine trade visit with wineries in the Walla Walla Valley), and co-chair of Auction of Washington Wines.

### **GRAND VIN**

**Bob Betz**, Betz Family Winery, was awarded the Grand Vin Award, a new award honoring winery employees or owners who have made a significant impact on the winery, the wine, the brand, or the process. Betz has done it all. He has been an integral part of the Washington wine industry for nearly 40 years. Due to his interest in details and continued knowledge he is constantly challenging his team and studies the latest science on enology and viticulture—he even runs experiments in the vineyards and winery every year based on leading edge thinking. In the mid-90s, Betz earned a Master of Wine degree, one of the highest recognitions in the industry. His strong verbal and written communication skills have made him known for his excellent judgement and insight. It is said he can explain complicated concepts in a way that anyone can

understand. As a humble contributor to the growth and prestige of the Washington wine industry, Betz serves as an ambassador and loves witnessing the industry's growth.

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Photos available upon request.

*The Washington Winegrowers Association serves as the synergistic leader and unifying voice  
– through advocacy and education –  
for growers, vintners, partners, and policymakers.*