

WINE ENTHUSIAST

M A G A Z I N E

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Immediate Release

For

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Wine Enthusiast Magazine Selects 2006 Wine Star Award Nominees

Wine Enthusiast Magazine announces 50 nominees for its annual Wine Star industry awards for 2006, listed below in alphabetical order. These awards honor outstanding achievement for this year. These nominees will appear in the October issue of the magazine, and the winners in each category will be announced in the December 15 issue, which will be published on November 6 and will feature profiles of all the winners.

The award categories are: Wine Person of the Year; three Wineries of the Year—American, European and New World; Winemaker of the Year; Wine Region of the Year; Distiller of the Year; Retailer of the Year; Importer of the Year and Special Lifetime Achievement Award.

Wine Person of the Year

Paul Dolan (Chairman, California Wine Institute)
Bill Harlan (Owner, Harlan Wine Estates)
Bernard Magrez (Proprietor, Bernard Magrez Grands Vignobles)
Scott Weiss (Managing Director, Foster's Wine Estates Americas)
The Olive Garden Wine Team: David Pickens, John Caron,
Terry Stanley, Michelle Kern

American Winery of the Year

Clos du Bois (California)
Delicato (California)
Harlan Estates (California)
Quilceda Creek (Washington)
Rubicon Estate (California)

European Winery of the Year

Dr. Loosen (Germany)
Marques de Riscal (Spain)
Niepoort (Portugal)
Planeta (Italy)
Torres (Spain)

New World Winery of the Year

Bodega Norton (Argentina)
Clarendon Hills (Australia)

Wine Region of the Year

Alexander Valley (California)
The Douro (Portugal)
The Medoc (France)
Mendoza (Argentina)
Montalcino (Italy)

Distiller of the Year

Buffalo Trace (USA)
Clear Creek (USA)
Germain-Robin (USA)
Remy Martin (France)
Rhum Clement (Martinique)

Retailer of the Year

Astor Wines & Spirits (New York)
Beverages & More (California)

Groot Constantia (South Africa)
Villa Maria (New Zealand)
Yalumba (Australia)

Winemaker of the Year

Willi Brundlmayer (Austria)
Carlo Ferrini (Italy)
Olivier Humbrecht (France)
Tony & Michele Jordan (Australia)
Randy Ullom (California)

Binny's Beverage Depot (Illinois)
Crown Wine & Spirits (Florida)
Garagiste (Washington)

Importer of the Year

E. & J. Gallo Winery
Moet Hennessy USA
Robert Kacher
Vintus
Winebow

Special Lifetime Achievement Award

To be announced in a subsequent release

A gala black tie awards ceremony, honoring the ten recipients and open to the trade, will take place in New York City on January 29, 2007, at the New York Public Library on Fifth Avenue.

Adam Strum, Editor & Publisher of *Wine Enthusiast Magazine*, said: "Selecting these candidates is the high point of our year, since it gives us the opportunity to reflect on the extraordinary vision and achievements of the people in our industry. With the increase in creativity, as well as in marketing and sales, choosing this year's recipients has been more rewarding—and more difficult—than ever."

The *Wine Enthusiast Magazine Wine Star Awards Dinner* was instituted in 2001, honoring achievements for the year 2000. Last year, the winners were:

Man of the Year: Patrick Ricard, President of Pernod Ricard (France)
American Winery of the Year: Don Sebastiani & Sons (California)
European Winery of the Year: Champagne Louis Roederer (France)
New World Winery of the Year: Vergelegen (South Africa)
Winemaker of the Year: Peter Gago, Penfolds/Foster's Wine Estates (Australia)
Wine Region of the Year: Colchagua Valley (Chile)
Importer of the Year: Empson & Company (Italy)
Distiller of the Year: Johnnie Walker, Diageo North America
Retailer of the Year: Sam's Wine & Spirits (Chicago, IL)
Lifetime Achievement Award: Baroness Philippine de Rothschild (France)

About *Wine Enthusiast Magazine*

Founded in 1988, *Wine Enthusiast Magazine's* mission is to educate and entertain readers about wine and the wine lifestyle in an accessible and user-friendly way. *Wine Enthusiast Magazine* has grown to become world's most respected and quoted publications in the field of wine and spirits. The magazine is an important source of ratings and reviews of both wine and spirits currently available in the marketplace, vital to both consumers and trade. With a readership of 500,000 per issue, *Wine Enthusiast Magazine* is available in fine wine shops, tasting rooms and major bookstores nationwide. In addition, *Wine Enthusiast Magazine* develops signature events for both consumers and trade. The magazine and "Buying Guide" are also available online at <http://winemag.com/>.

About Wine Enthusiast Companies

For over 25 years, Wine Enthusiast Companies has been helping people experience and enjoy the wine lifestyle. The Wine Enthusiast Companies is the established leader in wine education, wine accessories, wine refrigeration and custom built cellars. Wine Enthusiast products are available through catalog, online and various

retailers nationwide.

To find out more about The Wine Enthusiast, visit <http://www.wineenthusiast.com>
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