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The Washington State Wine Awards/Seattle Wine Awards announces the 2021 results plus the newest levels of recognition in #WAWINE. Founded in 2006, this year celebrates the 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the state's largest and most prestigious wine recognition program. In our continuous pursuit of promoting #WAWINE, founder and executive director Christopher Chan has added another set of jewels to crown of Washington State wine royalty.

Each entry is personally received, reviewed, confirmed, and entered into our program matrix. Each bottle is proofed for soundness by a team of certified sommeliers to ensure the wine is true to its' origin. All entries are checked for bottle variation and tainted wines (TCA, Acetic Acid or Oxidation) are never poured for our panel.

#### 200 POINT SCORING SYSTEM

The Tasting Panel will sniff, swirl, sip, taste, consider and review each wine for aroma, flavor, balance, typicity, correctness, character, complexity, and finish.

Our evaluation criteria includes: Aroma/Bouquet + Flavor/Palate + Balance/Complexity + Typicity/Character + Overall Impression reflected in scoring via a modified 200 point scoring system with the top (wines) earning: Best of Class; Diamond of The Decade; Double Gold; Gold; Silver; and Bronze; ~ Grand Awards of Excellence.

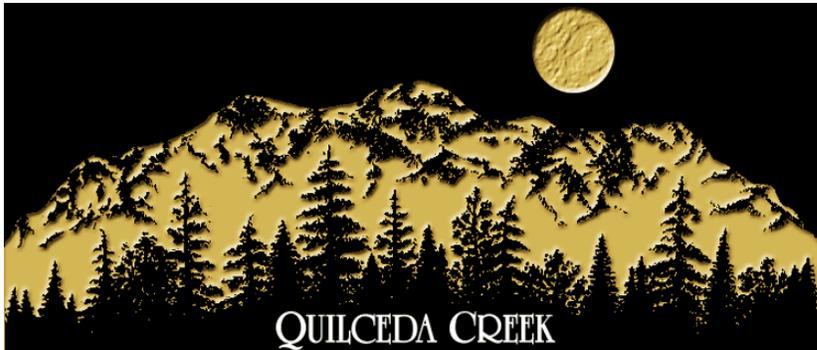
This recognition and subsequent accolades provide substantive marketing highlights and talking points which will further engage your club members, sales staff and tasting room customers alike.

We are extremely pleased to have added a special level of recognition acknowledging Pacific Northwest Wines with longevity, class, balance, and beauty from the 2011 vintage. Our Tasting Panel tasted and evaluated international varieties and styles best known for their ability to age and mature into first-class, exquisite examples of the finest wines in the world. These great wines, like those long-lived and celebrated classics from France, Italy and Spain, are hereby bestowed the honor of 2021 Diamond of the Decade.

Congratulations for crafting world-class Pacific Northwest Wines.



## 2021 Heritage Award in Washington Wine



*Alex, Jeanette, and Paul Golitzin of Quilceda Creek Vintners*

The Golitzin Family of Quilceda Creek Vintners in Snohomish, WA is one of Washington State's oldest family operated wineries. Founder, Alex Golitzin – American spelling – is a descendent of Prince Lev Sergeevich Galitzine, the acclaimed winemaker to Russian Czar Nicholas II's Abrau Dursau estate, as well as the Massandra and Novy Svet sparkling wine estates. Prince Lev Galitzine is the most famous figure among all those who were involved in the development of Russian winemaking and was dubbed "the creator of Russian champagne". At the outbreak of the Russian Revolution in 1917, Alex's parents fled for their lives to Paris where Alex was born. In 1946, after WWII, Alex and his family emigrated to San Francisco, California. Throughout his youth, Alex regularly visited Napa Valley and his maternal uncle, André Tchelistcheff, legendary Napa Valley winemaker at Beaulieu Vineyard, who is known as the "Dean of American Winemaking". In 1992, son Paul Golitzin joined his father as winemaker and now directs all aspects of vineyard management and winemaking.

The 2018 wine release marks Quilceda Creek Vintners' 40<sup>th</sup> Vintage in #WAWINE. Congratulations to the Golitzin Family for receiving our **2021 Heritage Award in Washington Wine** and their *Double Gold Award 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon*, Columbia Valley, 95 pts.

*Recognition Continued...*



## 2021 Washington Wine MVP ~ Most Valuable Producer



## DeLILLE CELLARS

DeLille Cellars is a boutique artisan winery located in Woodinville, Washington. The winery was founded in 1992 by Charles and Greg Lill, Jay Soloff, and celebrated winemaker Chris Upchurch. DeLille Cellars pioneered Bordeaux-style blends from Washington State and has produced some of #WAWINE finest expressions from Red Mountain, Yakima and Columbia Valleys.

Congratulations on this year's three solid double-gold award wines: *Double Gold Award ~ Minuit Malbec, Yakima Valley, 95 pts, Double Gold Award ~ D2 Red, Columbia Valley, 96 pts., Double Gold Award ~ Four Flags Cabernet Sauvignon, Red Mountain, 97 pts.* This consistent level of premium quality merits our recognition as ***Washington State's 2021 MVP – Most Valuable Producer Award.***

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## The Fabulous Four

### 2021 Washington Wineries of The Year

Washington State now boasts nearly 1000 wineries from Benton City to Bellingham, Woodinville to Walla Walla, and Ocean Shores to Orondo. With so many wineries, winemakers and wines, we felt it would be both a disservice and nearly impossible to solely select only one winery from such a distinguished list of acclaimed and lauded producers – so we chose the Fabulous Four ~ 2021 Washington Wineries of the Year (WWOTY). The following WWOTY are recognized for their consistent award recognition, continuous elevation of quality, texture and expression as well as making great #WAWINE in towns and cities never dreamed of before.



**Eleven Winery**, Bainbridge Island, WA ~ Matt Albee, Proprietor

#### **Eleven Winery ~ 2021 Washington State Wine Awards**

- Gold Award ~ 2018 Lem, Red Mountain 93 pts.
- Gold Award ~ 2020 Mourvèdre, WA State 90 pts.
- Gold Award ~ 2020 Chenin Blanc, Yakima Valley 90 pts.
- Gold Award ~ 2018 "Prima Donna" Syrah, Yakima Valley 92 pts.
- Double Gold Award ~ 2019 Ratio Rosso, WA State 94 pts.
- Double Gold Award ~ 2020 Roussanne, Yakima Valley 94 pts.
- Double Gold Award ~ 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon, Red Mountain 95 pts.
- Double Gold Award ~ 2018 "The Deputy" Mourvèdre, WA State 94 pts.

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Our founder and winemaker, Matt Albee, having hung up his racing bike after chasing the dream of professional suffering on two wheels around the globe, started looking around for what to do next. Having left graduate school in physics years earlier to pursue bicycle racing while his legs were still young, he considered going back to school, but the slow pace of scientific research is enough to lull just about anyone to sleep, which is what it did to him one morning as he dozed over a neuropsychology text in the Fall of 1999. In that half-awake state where dreams and reality mingle and chat like guests at a party, the epiphany struck, as though everyone at the party stopped talking all at once except for a single voice that said clearly "you should be a winemaker." Such a voice is not wisely ignored, so Matt set about finding a way to try winemaking.

Matt and his wife Sarah were living in the San Francisco Bay area, where they had spent many weekends touring and tasting at wineries, so it seemed like giving winemaking a try might be feasible without having to go too far. Matt had met the winemaker at Page Mill Winery, a small winery located near where he was living in Menlo Park, California. It was September, and his offer to help Dane Stark with harvest was met with an obvious "of course!" Within a few days he found himself standing atop the crush stand in the cool morning air, dumping 30-pound boxes of grapes into the crusher. Then and there, he knew that his destiny was sealed. He started going to the winery every morning before work, and after a few days Dane suggested that he make a barrel of wine of his own, "and do it now," he said, "because if you wait even a few weeks, you'll have to wait until next year." Matt found some grapes for sale and made a barrel of chardonnay that year, and continued helping out at the winery after harvest ended. Over the next three years, Dane, generous to a fault with his time, space, and equipment, taught Matt how to make great wine, and Matt spent as much time as possible working in the cellar. After three years, Matt's ambitions outgrew the limited extra space at Page Mill. He and Sarah searched for a place to put down roots in California, but ultimately decided to return to the Pacific Northwest, where they had both grown up. At the time the wine scene in Washington was just getting going, with a mere 250 wineries in the entire state. Matt and Sarah settled on Bainbridge Island for its community and natural beauty more than as a sensible place to start a winery (because it wasn't). They bought a fixer-upper house, fixed it up, refinanced it, and used the extra money to convert the large garage into a tiny winery. The first grapes were crushed in 2003, and the first whites were released in 2004. In 2011, the winery was relocated to larger space just a short distance from the original location, still on Bainbridge Island.

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## **The Fabulous Four**

### **2021 Washington Wineries of The Year**



**Golden Ridge Cellars, Walla Walla Airport, WA ~ Michael & Cindy Rasch, Proprietors**

#### **Golden Ridge Cellars ~ 2021 Washington State Wine Awards**

Gold Award ~ 2014 Estate Red, Walla Walla 91 pts.

Double Gold Award ~ 2014 Estate Red, Walla Walla 94 pts.

Double Gold Award ~ 2016 Estate Merlot, Walla Walla 95 pts.

Our vineyard was planted in 1998 and is located on the East side of the Walla Walla AVA. The views are unsurpassed. The winemaker, Michael completed the Enology and Viticulture program at Walla Walla Community College as a second career. We love to share our wines! Current releases include our 2018 Chardonnay, 2014 Estate Red Blend, 2016 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon and 2016 Estate Merlot. Last year's fall release was our 2016 Estate Red Blend. Wine club members have access to library wines. New releases coming soon! Please remember to schedule tasting appointments due to Covid 19 restrictions. We may have same day appointments - so give us a call! Come and taste the wines for yourself. New location 598 Piper Avenue in Walla Walla, WA.

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## The Fabulous Four 2021 Washington Wineries of The Year

Lake  
*Chelan*  
Winery



### Lake Chelan Winery ~ 2021 Washington State Wine Awards

Gold Award ~ 2017 M10, Columbia Valley 92 pts.

Double Gold Award ~ MV Exclusive RED VII 96 pts.

Double Gold Award ~ 2018 Tempranillo, Lake Chelan 94 pts.

Double Gold Award ~ 2017 Merlot, Lake Chelan 94 pts.

Double Gold Award ~ 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon, Riverbend Vineyard 95 pts.

#### Lake Chelan Winery, Lake Chelan, WA ~ Steve & Bobbi Kludt, Proprietors

We can't talk about our winery without talking about apples. The Lake Chelan Valley once teemed with apple orchards. Apple-growing was a source of income, a way of life, and the common thread that held our community together. In fact, apples lured Steve and Bobbi Kludt to the valley in 1975 when they started *Kludt Waldron Orchards* with Bobbi's parents, Jim and Betty Waldron. It'd been their dream to live off of the land and to raise their family in the beautiful northwest. Steve and Bobbi were living the life they'd envisioned and their small orchard in Manson grew heavy with fruit. Like most farmers in the Chelan Valley, the Kludt's enjoyed many years of success and their apple orchards thrived. Over the years they purchased more land and expanded with new varieties and cherries. But in 1998, their world came crashing down. A veil of sadness fell over the valley when the apple market collapsed.

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Sadly, many farmers lost their land – the lifeblood that had been in their families for many generations. On the brink of losing everything, the Kludt’s realized that they needed a new direction in order to thrive as farmers in Lake Chelan. That same year, they fearlessly pulled their Red Delicious apple trees and planted the first commercial vineyards in the Chelan Valley. Steve and Bobbi had big dreams to not only preserve their farm and way of life through Lake Chelan Winery, but to revitalize an entire community by building a successful wine industry in the valley. With the help of a few visionaries and friends, this dream was seen to fruition, and the Lake Chelan Valley Wine Industry was born. The community that had once been crippled by the devastating collapse of the apple market, found hope and restoration growing in a little vineyard along the northern slopes of Lake Chelan.



## The Fabulous Four 2021 Washington Wineries of The Year

The logo for Stavalaura, featuring the name in a stylized, black, cursive script.



**Stavalaura Vineyards & Winery**, Vancouver, WA ~ Bev & Joe Leadingham, Proprietors

### **Stavalaura Vineyards & Winery ~ 2021 Washington State Wine Awards**

Double Gold Award ~ Pinot Noir, Vancouver, WA 94 pts.

Double Gold Award ~ 2015 Zweigelt Vancouver, WA 94 pts.

Gold Award ~ 2015 Golubok Croatian Indigenous, Vancouver, WA 93 pts.

**Stavalaura** is a small-batch, family-owned-and-operated vineyard and winery nestled just outside the small, friendly town of Ridgefield, Washington. The first vines were planted in 2003 by owner and winemaker, Joe Leadingham, and his daughter, Laura, as her high school horticulture project.

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(Laura had played with frogs as a little girl and just couldn't dissect them, so she chose to take Horticulture rather than Biology). Laura had to come up with a final project for her class. Her Dad, Joe, wanted to help her figure out a project.

As luck would have it, Joe went to work (pilot at Delta Airlines) during that time and Bob Morris, owner of **Phelps Creek Vineyards and Winery** in Hood River, was the co-pilot. Of course, during their flight, Joe mentioned the upcoming horticulture project. Bob generously offered Joe some Pinot Noir starts that he had, suggesting that Laura could plant a few rows as her project. What followed was exactly that!

After the horticulture project was a success, Joe began noticing how well the Pinot Noir grapes were doing. After the first vines produced delicious fruit, Joe planted more vines on the land he owned. The successful outcome with this first vineyard encouraged a desire to plant more grapes and learn about winemaking. He took the two-year Viticulture course and then the two-year Enology course through **Washington State University**. When he completed the courses, he began to think about planting more grapes, but he wanted to plant something entirely different from what was already growing here. WSU steered him to Cloud Mountain Nurseries where, after lengthy conversations with Botanist Tom Thornton, they decided that a good choice would be the **Golubok** grape (a teinturier grape with deep magenta coloring) with origins in Russia and Ukraine, and the **Zweigelt-Rebe** grape (the most widely grown red grape in Austria). The Zweigelt-Rebe is a grape that is lighter in flavor but has a beautiful color derived from its rich skin color.

After his decision, he purchased additional acreage and began planting it with **Golubok** (a southern Russian/Ukrainian grape), **Zweigelt-Rebe** (a northern European varietal), and more **Pinot Noir** vines (*Pommard and 777 clones*). Three years later Joe began to make wine from his grapes, which was consumed and shared with family and friends. This continued for the next several years. As more and more positive feedback came in, Joe began to contemplate starting a winery that would eventually be opened to the public.

Upon his decision to move forward, the question of a name for the winery arose. He wanted a name that would not only sound beautiful but would represent the qualities of his wines. He also wanted to incorporate his love of family in the name. Joe's parents had four children, three boys and a girl (Valerie). Time passed and grandchildren arrived. Plenty of lively boys once again outnumbered three cherished little girls...cousins, **Stacy**, a pragmatic, engineering type, then **Valerie**, extremely creative and artistic (named after her Aunt Val), and lastly, his daughter, **Laura**, who was a happy mix of both traits. Although the three girls were uniquely different, when they all got together it was sheer delight! Joe realized that the very traits these beloved young ladies possessed (exacting scientific methodology balanced with artistic boldness) are the qualities that are required to make an enjoyable, beautiful, unique wine----**thus the name Stavalaura was born.**

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## **The Fantastic Four**

### **2021 Washington Winemakers of The Year**

#### **Bunnell Family Winery ~ 2021 Washington State Wine Awards**

Double Gold Award ~ 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon Discovery Vineyard 95 pts.  
Double Gold Award ~ 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon Painted Hills Vineyard 94 pts.  
Double Gold Award ~ 2013 Vestige Snipes Mountain Red Proprietary Blend 96 pts.



**Ron & Susan Bunnell, Bunnell Family Cellars ~ Prosser, WA**

Every fall, at our home on the Yakima River, the entire Bunnell Family is stricken with a serious case of purple palms. Harvest means handmade is the rule of the day -- and even the kids take part in the fun! Together we are happy to craft way too many small lots of award winning wine for our winery!

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## **The Fantastic Four**

### **2021 Washington Winemakers of The Year**

#### **Mellisoni Vineyards & Winery ~ 2021 Washington State Wine Awards**

Gold Award ~ 2019 Merlot Royal Slope 92 pts.

Double Gold Award ~ 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Royal Slope 95 pts.

Double Gold Award ~ 2018 Malbec Royal Slope 94 pts.

Double Gold Award ~ 2018 Best Friends Royal Slope 95 pts.

Double Gold Award ~ 2018 PMS Columbia Valley 96 pts.

Double Gold Award ~ 2018 60° Degrees Lake Chelan 96 pts.

Diamond of The Decade ~ Double Gold Award 2011 Reserve M Cabernet Sauvignon Royal Slope 95pts.



#### **Rob & Donna Mellison, Mellisoni Winery ~ Lake Chelan, WA**

Rob is a Seattle native and Donna is originally from the Orange County, California area. Following their studies at Oregon State University in 1998, where Donna attended Pharmacy College, they purchased property in Chelan in 2002 at their present location...with absolutely no intention of opening a winery. We were just going to have our fifth wheel here," Donna laughs, "(but) a trip to Italy that same year, 2002, is when it all started. We came back and decided to put in a boutique vineyard and winery. The life-changing experience began after a week-long stay at a villa at Livernano Winery in Tuscany, where they met then-proprietor Marco Montanari and about 10 other guests from around the world. On the plane trip back, the Mellisons wasted no time in making future plans for their newly purchased Chelan property. "We said, let's do this," says Rob, "let's start a winery and bring this feeling, this experience, back to the States and do the same thing.

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## The Fantastic Four

### 2021 Washington Winemakers of The Year

#### Pondera Winery ~ 2021 Washington State Wine Awards

Gold Award ~ 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley 92 pts.

Gold Award ~ 2017 LTD, Livin' the Dream Sagemoor 90 pts.

Double Gold Award ~ 2017 Prima Donna Royal Slope 94 pts.

Double Gold Award ~ 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley 94 pts.

Diamond of The Decade ~ Double Gold Award 2011 SVS - Number One Conner Lee 96 pts.

Diamond of The Decade ~ Double Gold Award 2011 Entwined Columbia Valley 94 pts.



**Shane Howard (2<sup>nd</sup> from L), Pondera Winery ~ Woodinville, WA**

Pondera Winery is a family owned, boutique winery located in the Warehouse Winery District of Woodinville, Washington. Winemaker, Shane Howard, has been making wine since 2003 and the winery was officially launched with the Pondera brand in early 2005. The winery specializes in the production of high quality, well balanced red and white varietals and red blends. Our grapes are sourced from several of Washington's most highly regarded vineyards. Each wine is very limited and our entire production is currently 3000 cases annually. Today, most of our wine is sold direct through the tasting room in Woodinville and through a small number of wine shops and restaurants. We plan to stay small, keeping a hands-on approach to producing outstanding hand-crafted wines in limited quantities. We age our wines longer in barrel and bottle than most wineries, so they are ready to drink upon release.

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## **The Fantastic Four**

### **2021 Washington Winemakers of The Year**

#### **Three of Cups Winery ~ 2021 Washington State Wine Awards**

Gold Award ~ 2017 Le Bateleur Cabernet Sauvignon Red Mountain 91 pts.

Gold Award ~ 2018 La Monde Malbec Columbia Valley 91 pts.

Double Gold Award ~ 2017 Le Croyant Petite Sirah Red Mountain 95 pts.

Double Gold Award ~ 2018 Le Judgement Red Columbia Valley Red Rhône Styles 95 pts.



**Lisa Swei & Mike Metheny, Three of Cups Winery ~ Woodinville, WA**

Founded in 2013, Three of Cups winery is based in the Artisan Hill area of Woodinville, WA producing limited quantities of premium Washington State wines. Three of Cups was formed by friends who share a passion for wine and food and wanted to expand that beyond our friends and family. The tarot card, Three of Cups, symbolizes conviviality, abundance, joy, and friendship – all things that happen naturally with wine.

Our fruit comes from premium vineyards throughout Washington State including such places as Red Mountain and Walla Walla Valley. We strive to produce wines that express the very best of the regions we source from and pair well with food. All wines are produced in small batches, using French oak for our reds and stainless steel for our whites. We have received great reviews and ratings for our initial vintages and subsequent releases.

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