**Rich Smith Distinguished Service Award Nomination Form**

Richard (Rich) Smith, founder of Valley Farm Management, Paraiso Vineyards and Smith Family Wines in California's Santa Lucia Highlands wine region, was first and foremost a family man, and also a successful grape grower, winery owner and respected colleague. He was a highly effective, collegial and tireless leader whose significant and selfless contributions of time, energy and funds helped to shape public policy and scientific research to advance the American grape and wine industry. He passed away in December 2015.

Three of the organizations Rich helped to establish—the National Grape Research Alliance (NGRA), WineAmerica and Winegrape Growers of America (WGA)—annually join with the Smith Family to bestow the Rich Smith Distinguished Service Award. It recognizes an industry representative who exemplifies the passion, commitment and collaboration Rich was known for and who has had a similarly positive impact on the industry. For each organization, it is our highest and most coveted award.

**To make a nomination, please complete and submit the form below by November 16, 2022.** The 2023 Rich Smith Award recipient will be named at the WGA Leadership Luncheon on January 25, 2023, in Sacramento, CA.

**Past Winners**   
2017 - [John Martini, Anthony Road Wine Company](https://graperesearch.org/2017/01/25/first-richard-r-smith-perpetual-award-presented-to-john-martini/)  
2018 - [Pete Downs, Family Winemakers of California](https://graperesearch.org/2018/01/24/2017-rich-smith-distinguished-service-award-presented-to-wine-industry-legend-pete-downs/)

2019 - [Jerry Lohr, J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines](https://graperesearch.org/2019/02/01/jerry-lohr-receives-2019-rich-smith-award/)

2020 - [Jim Trezise, WineAmerica](https://graperesearch.org/2020/02/06/rich-smith-distinguished-service-award-presented-to-jim-trezise/)

2021 - [Donniella Winchell, Ohio Wine Producers Association](https://graperesearch.org/2021/01/19/2021-rich-smith-award-presented-to-donnie-winchell/)

2022 - [Thomas (Tom) Davenport, National Grape Cooperative (retired)](https://graperesearch.org/2022/01/26/rich-smith-award-presented-to-tom-davenport/)

1. Please provide **your nominee's** first and last name, title and company name, and email address.

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2. To be eligible for the Rich Smith Award, nominees must satisfy the following **eligibility criteria:**  
- Geography: This award may be presented to any person (including foreign nationals) living and working in the U.S. whose contributions have benefited the American grape and grape products industries.  
- Membership Status: The recipient may, but need not be, a current or former member of any of the three sponsoring organizations: WineAmerica, WGA or NGRA.  
  
Please acknowledge that your nominee meets these eligibility criteria.

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| Yes |  |
| No |  |

If your nominee is/was involved in one (or more) of the three sponsoring organizations, please name it here:

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3. Nominees for the Rich Smith Distinguished Service Award must exemplify the kind of passion, commitment and collaboration Rich was known for, such as:  
- Fostering an atmosphere of collegiality and collaboration  
- Nurturing a community of grape and wine industry experts  
- Working in harmony to address common issues or opportunities  
- Working as a change agent: creating systematic, positive change through research, public policy, consumer awareness and/or volunteerism  
- Displaying leadership in the grape and wine industry  
- Demonstrating support for diversity and community  
  
With these qualities in mind, **please summarize what inspired you to choose your nominee.** Examples could include his/her involvement in causes or organizations and/or achievements that have benefited the industry.

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4. Please provide **a link to your nominee's LinkedIn page or other web-based bio** so that reviewers may have as full a picture as possible of your nominee's career, accomplishments and service to the grape and wine industry. Alternately, you may attach a copy of your nominee's bio or resume and email it with this form to hello@graperesearch.org. (If attached, please note that here.)

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6. Please provide **your info**—first and last name and email address—in case we need to follow up.

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**Email this completed form to hello@graperesearch.org by November 16, 2022.**

Thank you for taking the time to nominate a leader!