



Rich Smith Distinguished Service Award Nomination

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 and winery owner, and a respected colleague. Through his significant and selfless contributions of time, energy and funds to organizations that advance the American grape and wine industry, he came to be known as a highly effective, collegial and tireless leader. He passed away in December 2015.

Three of the organizations Rich helped to shape—the [National Grape Research Alliance](#) (NGRA), [WineAmerica](#) and [Winegrape Growers of America](#) (WGA)—collaborated to create the Rich Smith Distinguished Service Award to honor his spirit and legacy. It annually recognizes people who demonstrate similar qualities and make a similarly positive impact on the industry, and gives us an opportunity to remember this remarkable man.

You may [click here to complete and submit your nomination online](#) OR fill in the info below and email this completed form to hello@graperesearch.org. **Nominations are due by October 29, 2021**. The recipient will be named at the WGA Leadership Luncheon on Wednesday, January 26, 2022, in Sacramento.

Past Winners

- 2017 - [John Martini, Anthony Road Wine Company](#)
- 2018 - [Pete Downs, Family Winemakers of California](#)
- 2019 - [Jerry Lohr, J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines](#)
- 2020 - [Jim Trezise, WineAmerica](#)
- 2021 - [Donniella Winchell, Ohio Wine Producers Association](#)

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

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.

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

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



3. Nominees for the Rich Smith Award must exemplify **qualities on par with those that set Rich apart**, such as:

- Fostering an atmosphere of collaboration
- Nurturing a community of grape and wine industry experts
- Addressing widespread issues or problems
- Working in harmony, addressing issues that unite us
- 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

Please cite at least three examples of what sets your nominee apart.

4. Please summarize **what inspired you to nominate this leader**. Examples could include the nominee's background, information about his or her business(es) related to the U.S. grape and wine industry, involvement in causes or organizations, and/or achievements that have benefited the industry.

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5. 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 full name and email address** in case we need to follow up.

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You may [click here to submit your nomination online](#) (please copy/paste the info above into the online form) OR email this completed form to hello@graperesearch.org. **Nominations are due by October 29, 2021.**

Thank you for taking the time to nominate a leader!