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**Joel Palmer House Named
2015 Oregon Wine A-List Restaurant of the Year;
Andy Zalman Wins Wine Director of the Year**

PORTLAND, OREGON (February 25, 2015) — Top honors for the 2015 Oregon Wine A-List Awards were announced last night at the Oregon Wine Industry Awards Dinner. The 2015 Oregon Wine A-List Restaurant of the Year award was given to The Joel Palmer House of Dayton, Ore., to honor their singular support of Oregon wine. The Oregon Wine A-List Wine Director of the Year award was given to Andy Zalman of Higgins Restaurant in Portland, Ore., for his sustained support and advocacy of the wines of Oregon.

Also announced were nine Oregon Wine A-List Regional Star restaurant award winners. From the 72 Oregon Wine A-List restaurants unveiled in January, the best-in-class in each of seven regions were recognized as Regional Stars for superior support of Oregon wines.

“We are thrilled to honor these exceptional advocates of Oregon wine,” said Ellen Brittan, chairwoman of the Oregon Wine Board. “These awards are the highest praise Oregon’s wine industry can give to our most dedicated supporters in the restaurant and wine service community, and they serve as a guide for consumers to the businesses and people who promote and feature the diverse wines of Oregon.”

The 2015 Oregon Wine A-List Regional Star winning restaurants are:

Portland Metro: Urban Farmer (Southwest Portland), The Farm Café (Southeast Portland)

Willamette Valley: The Painted Lady (Newberg)

Southern Oregon: Larks (Ashland), Alchemy (Ashland)

Columbia Gorge: Timberline Lodge (Mt. Hood)

Coast and Central: Restaurant Beck (Depoe Bay)

National and International: Artist Point (Orlando, FL), Norda Bar & Grill (Göteborg, Sweden)

“Each of these establishments has set a high bar of support for Oregon wines within their region,” said Hilary Berg, editor of the Oregon Wine Press. “We are excited to acknowledge their best-in-class status as advocates for Oregon wine through their Oregon Wine A-List Regional Star award.”

The awards were presented to recipients by famed wine authority Doug Frost, one of only three people in the world to hold both Master Sommelier and Master of Wine titles.

The Joel Palmer House was presented with the Restaurant of the Year Award in acknowledgement of the unparalleled depth of their commitment to Oregon wine. The restaurant has been a Willamette Valley institution since it was opened by Jack Czarnecki in 1996. Today, chef/owner Christopher Czarnecki and sommelier Andrea Fulton-Higgins offer a unique Oregon wine experience with more than 600 wines on their list—all from Oregon.

Andy Zalman has been an influential advocate for Oregon wine since 1994 when he became wine steward at Higgins Restaurant. In concert with the restaurant’s pioneering local and seasonal cooking ethic, Andy has been a powerful advocate for local Oregon wines, crafting a list that features a wide range of wines from across the state and helping educate customers about the quality and diversity of Oregon’s wines. In recognition of his seminal role in bringing Oregon wines to the public, Andy was declared the 2015 Oregon Wine A-List Wine Director of the Year.

The Oregon Wine A-List Awards program is jointly sponsored by the Oregon Wine Press and the Oregon Wine Board. The awards honor restaurants and restaurant professionals that demonstrate outstanding commitment to advocating and celebrating the quality and diversity of the wines of Oregon. The A-List Awards guide consumers to restaurants everywhere that promote and feature Oregon wines.

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About Oregon Wine Press.

Oregon Wine Press is a monthly consumer publication dedicated to Oregon wine, Pinot noir, food, vineyards, winemakers, and insider-industry happenings. Established in 1984, OWP was acquired and re-imagined in 2006 by the News-Register Publishing Co., which is located in the heart of Oregon wine country, McMinnville, Oregon. Visit www.oregonwinepress.com

About the Oregon Wine Board.

The Oregon Wine Board is a semi-independent Oregon state agency managing marketing, research, and education initiatives that support and advance the Oregon wine and wine grape industry. The Board works on behalf of all Oregon wineries and independent growers throughout the state’s diverse winegrowing regions. Visit oregonwine.org.

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