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Oregon Wine Board names two new directors, officers

Bartholomew elected Chairwoman; Thomson, Valot join OWB/OWA as directors

PORTLAND, Jan. 9, 2013 – Gov. John Kitzhaber has appointed two new directors to the [Oregon Wine Board](#) (OWB) and reappointed two current directors to new terms. Both Steve Thomson of King Estate Winery and Juan Pablo “JP” Valot of Silvan Ridge Winery were appointed to three-year terms. Leigh Bartholomew of Archery Summit and Dominio IV winery and Michael Donovan of RoxyAnn Winery were re-appointed to new terms.

Bartholomew was elected by the board to succeed Donovan as chairwoman. Donovan becomes chairman emeritus. Bill Sweat of Winderlea Vineyard & Winery was elected vice chairman and Ellen Brittan of Brittan Vineyards was named treasurer for the 2013-14 fiscal year.

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 winegrowers throughout the state's diverse winegrowing regions.

Thomson is executive vice president of King Estate Winery near Eugene. King Estate is Oregon's largest winery and the largest producer of Pinot gris in the U.S. Thomson is also a partner in Octave Vineyard, LLC, Walla Walla, WA. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois and joined King Estate in 1999 where he has held numerous sales and marketing positions. He is also on the boards of Wine America and the Northwest Wine Coalition as well as the advisory committee of Chemeketa College's Viticulture & Enology program.

Valot is a native of Mendoza, Argentina. He has a degree in agricultural sciences with a focus on enology and viticulture from the National University of Cuyo in Mendoza. He came to Oregon in 2001. Valot has been in the wine industry 15 years in Argentina and Oregon. At Silvan Ridge, he has served as winemaker and vineyard manager and has taught classes at Chemeketa Community College in Salem. He was named winemaker at Silvan Ridge in 2012 in his seventh year at the South Willamette Valley winery.

About Oregon Wine:

The Oregon wine grape and wine industry contributes more than \$2.7 billion in economic activity to the state economy each year, including more than 13,518 wine-related jobs and \$382 million in wages.

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