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## MEDIA RELEASE

### Positive news for Australian winemakers amid Brexit turmoil

WFA welcomes the signing of a new agreement on trade in wine between Australia and the United Kingdom (UK), signed in London overnight.

The Australia-United Kingdom (UK) Wine Agreement mirrors provisions we have held for many years within an existing agreement between Australia and the European Community on Trade in Wine, providing greater certainty of market access for Australian wine exporters and allowing for a smoother transition when the UK formally separates from the European Union (EU) on 29 March 2019.

“WFA has been working with the Australian Government to ensure this agreement came to fruition, and we congratulate the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, the Hon. David Littleproud MP, and the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, for getting the deal across the line” said Tony Battaglene, CEO of the Winemakers’ Federation of Australia.

The UK is the world’s sixth largest wine market, and Australia’s number one export destination by volume. It is also Australia’s third largest export destination by value, with \$380 million worth of Australian wine exported to the UK in the 12 months to September 2018.

“With the outcome of Brexit shrouded in so much uncertainty, it is great to see the government on the front foot, maintaining access to this vital market for Australian winemakers” said Mr Battaglene.

“Although, there will be still be challenges for exporters in the immediate post-Brexit environment, this deal will significantly help the Australian wine sector during this turbulent time and provides advantages to Australian wine exporters that most of our competitors will not enjoy” said Mr Battaglene.

WFA will continue to work with the Australian Government before and after Brexit to make sure the interests of Australian winemakers are considered.

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