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MEDIA STATEMENT

Take a bow, ladies of wine award winners!

The Winemakers' Federation of Australia congratulates the winners in the inaugural *Women in Wine Awards* who were announced this week.

Federation Chief Executive Paul Evans said the Federation was delighted to support the awards and praised all of the 100-plus nominees for taking the step forward to be part of the initiative.

"Shining a spotlight on high-achieving women is an important part of recognizing and reward achievements and leading by example so these awards help do both of these important things," Mr Evans said.

"Women of wine in Australia are driving our industry forward in every aspect of the wine supply chain so it is equally important to highlight their work as well as inspire other women coming up through the industry to follow in their footsteps as well as receive accolades like these awards."

The awards are the brainchild of Jane Thomson, founder of The Fabulous Ladies' Wine Society.

"We are so overwhelmed by the quality and caliber of the candidates which demonstrates the depth of talent of the women in the Australian wine industry," Jane said.

"My congratulations also go to the whole Women in Wine Awards Board for a great job."

The 2015 awards winners are:

- **Winemaker of the Year**, Sponsored by Wine Ark - Rose Kentish, Ulithorne Wines (McLaren Vale)
- **Viticulturist of the Year**, Sponsored by Wine Australia - Irina Santiago-Brown, Inkwell Wines (McLaren Vale)
- **Owner / Operator of the Year**, Sponsored by Cellarhand - Rebecca Duffy, Holm Oak Vineyards (Tasmania)
- **Workplace Champion of Change**, Sponsored by Vinomofo - Dianne Laurance, Laurance Wines (Margaret River)

See <http://fabulousladieswinesociety.com/>

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