

# CHEERS!

## 2018 CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS

The 40th Vancouver International Wine Festival proudly honoured the people and venues that make such a significant contribution to the B.C. wine and food culture. The following awards were presented at the 15th Annual Awards Lunch featuring Wines from Spain & Portugal on Friday, March 2.

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### SPIRITED INDUSTRY PROFESSIONAL

#### Barbara Philip MW

The annual Spirited Industry Professional Award is presented to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the sales, service or promotion of wine in British Columbia.

Barbara was the first Western Canadian to achieve the Master of Wine designation and is the only woman in Canada with this distinction. For close to 10 years she has managed the European Portfolio at BC Liquor Stores. Through Barbariain Wine Consulting, Barbara has been an international presenter, educator, journalist and judge. Since 2008, she has been the wine columnist on CBC Radio's On the Coast. She has been for many years a judge for Decanter World Wines Awards, the largest wine competition in the world and also been Vice President of the Canadian Association of Professional Sommeliers, BC Chapter.

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VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL WINE FESTIVAL



### SOMMELIER OF THE YEAR

#### Sean Nelson, *sommelier, Vij's*

The Sommelier of the Year Award recognizes working sommeliers who consistently demonstrate an outstanding passion for marrying wine with food and a dedication to exceptional service. Shane Taylor was selected through a hands-on competition organized by the BC Chapter of the Canadian Association of Professional Sommeliers. As Sommelier of the Year, Sean received Delta Air Lines vouchers valued at \$2,000 USD from the festival.

Sean grew up in Greater Vancouver and entered the hospitality industry at age 16 with a job at The Keg Steakhouse & Bar. After being bitten by the wine bug, he completed his WSET Intermediate and Advanced certification with Distinction. In 2013, he became a sommelier at Vij's restaurant and began pursuing the Master Sommelier Diploma. He completed the Introductory Sommelier Certification with 100% on the examination and became Western Canada's youngest Advanced Sommelier in 2016. He plans to sit the Master Sommelier Examination in 2019.

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In partnership with

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SOMMELIERS

ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES SOMMELIERS PROFESSIONNELS



Platinum winners (left to right): Shane Taylor, Cin Cin Ristorante + Bar; William Mulholland, Blue Water Café; Bryant Mao, Hawksworth Restaurant; Lisa Haley, L'Abattoir; Brad Royale, Cilantro; Mike Bernardo, Vij's

## WINE PROGRAM EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2018

Sponsored by

VANCOUVER MAGAZINE

## WINE EXCELLENCE PROGRAM WINNERS

These awards pay tribute to restaurateurs who have committed to producing an original and creative wine program. Participating restaurants received careful consideration of their wine program by some of the finest, most professional judges in Western Canada.

Our judges: Tom Doughty, Jay Jones, DJ Kearney, Iain Philip, Jason Yamasaki

Bookmark [VanWineFest.ca/tradedays/2018-wine-program-excellence-award-winners](#) for your guide to restaurants with great wine programs.

41<sup>ST</sup> VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL WINE FESTIVAL

February 23–March 3, 2019

FEATURING

CALIFORNIA WINES

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