



VanWineFest
22-30 April 2023

Featuring
**SOUTH
AMERICA**

The Wine World Was Here

2023 CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS

The 44th Vancouver International Wine Festival proudly honoured the people and places that make such a significant contribution to the B.C. wine and food culture. The following awards were presented at the 19th Annual Awards Lunch Featuring South America, presented by ContainerWorld, on Friday, April 28.



DJ Kearney, judge and presenter, (centre) with Platinum Wine Program Excellence Award winners: (l-r) Reverie Beall, AnnaLena; Franco Michienzi, Elisa; Chris Rielly, Hawksworth Restaurant; Tara Viola, Nightingale; Esme McBrooks, Chambar; Calen MacDonald & Barrett Jones, Blue Water Cafe; Andrew Forsyth, L'Abattoir.



**SPIRITED
INDUSTRY
PROFESSIONAL**
John Bishop,
Chef & Author

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.

Welsh-born John Bishop began his career at the age of 15, filling creamer jugs and delivering breakfast trays. After ten years as chef at a restaurant in Kinsale, County Cork, he came to Canada in 1973. In 1985, he launched the iconic restaurant that bore his name for 36 years. Bishop's was synonymous with farm-to-table ingredients, west coast hospitality, and great food. John retired in August 2022 to spend more time with his family and write. He has already authored four cookbooks on everything from the importance of fresh, local ingredients, to favorite family recipes from his own home kitchen.

Presented by



**TERRY THRELFALL
SCHOLARSHIP**
Chris Turyk,
Sales & Marketing
Director, Unsworth
Vineyards

The Vancouver International Wine Festival is pleased to partner with the BC Hospitality Foundation, the Canadian Association of Professional Sommeliers and the Threlfall family on a scholarship in the name of our beloved friend and colleague, Terry Threlfall, who passed away suddenly in October 2020. The scholarship is awarded to a candidate seeking to make a difference in mentorship and leadership in the British Columbia wine trade.

Chris helped found Unsworth Vineyards with his father, Tim. He has been involved in all aspects of the business from identifying vineyard sites to his current role directing marketing and sales. Chris has a deep passion for food, wine and agriculture with credentials and experience in all three areas. Chris sits on the board of directors for CAPS-BC and WGBC, and sits on committees with the BCHF and UBC Wine Research Centre. Currently Chris is enrolled in the Master of Wine Study Programme, which occupies the rest of the day when he isn't working or walking his dog, Beau.

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**45TH VANCOUVER
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**SOMMELIER OF
THE YEAR**
Kelcie Jones,
Co-Owner,
This is Wine School

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. Kelcie Jones was selected through a hands-on competition organized by the BC Chapter of the Canadian Association of Professional Sommeliers. As Sommelier of the Year, Kelcie receives two Delta Air Lines vouchers valued at \$2,000 USD from the festival.

Sommelier, Wine Educator, Wine Writer, Master of Wine student. After completing a BA and MA at the University of Toronto, Kelcie held sommelier and wine director positions across Vancouver, most notably as Wine Director at Chambar, while completing her WSET Diploma and beginning to teach WSET and other wine courses. Following that, she opened Elephant on Powell St. as GM and Wine Director. Recently Kelcie joined the Michelin-starred Burdock & Co as Wine Director and opened This is Wine School to offer WSET and alternative wine education in Chinatown, Vancouver and beyond.

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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, DJ Kearney, Bryant Mao, Iain Philip, and Maude Renaud-Brisson

METRO VANCOUVER

Platinum
L'Abattoir
AnnaLena
Blue Water Cafe
Chambar
Elisa
Hawksworth
Restaurant
Nightingale

Gold
Bar Gobo
Botanist
CinCin Ristorante
+ Bar
Dachi - Community
Hero
Elephant -
Best New Entry
Published on Main
Yuwa Japanese
Cuisine

Silver
Burdock & Co
Savio Volpe
Bronze
Forage
Joe Fortes Seafood
& Chop House
Tap Urban Cafe

**Honourable
Mention**
Ancora Waterfront
Dining and Patio,
Ambleside

WHISTLER

Gold
Alta Bistro
Silver
Bearfoot Bistro
Il Caminetto
Bronze
Araxi Restaurant +
Oyster Bar
Wild Blue
Restaurant + Bar

GREATER VICTORIA

Gold
The Courtney Room
Bronze
10 Acres at the Pier
Fathom, Hotel
Grand Pacific
**Honourable
Mention**
Boom + Batten

ALBERTA

Gold
Major Tom Bar
(Calgary)
RGE RD (Edmonton)

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great wine programs.

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