



June 14, 2017

Steve Lohr of J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines Elected Wine Institute Chairman 2017-2018



SAN FRANCISCO –Steve Lohr, CEO of J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines in San Jose and Paso Robles, has been elected Wine Institute Board Chairman for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. The election was held at Wine Institute’s 83rd Annual Meeting of Members in San Diego. Other board officers elected were Chris Indelicato of Delicato Family Vineyards in Napa, first vice chairman; Hank Wetzel of Alexander Valley Vineyards in Healdsburg, second vice chairman; John Sutton, The Wine Group in Livermore, treasurer; and Suzanne Groth, Groth Vineyards & Winery in Oakville, secretary. Robert P. (Bobby) Koch is President and CEO of Wine Institute.

“Since 1934, Wine Institute has helped wineries of all sizes as the go-to voice of the California wine industry. It is an honor to have been selected by my industry colleagues to work with Wine Institute’s experienced team on core issues facing our industry: policies and regulations, taxation, enhancing California wines’ reputation and commerce both in the United States and abroad, finding solutions to labor and immigration challenges, and promoting sustainable winegrowing practices that will continue to make our industry thrive for years to come,” said Lohr.

Lohr began in the wine industry in 1972 at the age of 10 when he helped his father, Jerry, plant their first vineyards in the Arroyo Seco appellation of Monterey County. Through high school, he worked weekends in the vineyards, fostering a lifelong passion for viticulture. After graduating from Stanford University with degrees in civil engineering and economics, Lohr split his time between winegrowing, and designing and building high-end custom homes on the San Francisco Peninsula. He joined J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines in 2003 as VP of planning and development, and later became EVP/COO of J. Lohr Vineyards, overseeing the management and development of the family’s 3,700 acres of estate vineyards in Paso Robles, Monterey and St. Helena. Lohr has served as a three-term chairman of the Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance, and is also the chairman of the California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance.

Wine Institute is the public policy advocacy group for nearly 1,000 California wineries and affiliated businesses, accounting for 95 percent of California wine production and 85 percent of U.S. wine production. Based in San Francisco, with offices in Sacramento, Washington, D.C., six regions across the U.S. and 15 foreign countries, Wine Institute is guided by 80 vintners who are members and alternates on an active board of directors. The board elects the chairman and officers on an annual basis.

Wine Institute’s membership also elected new district- and at-large directors and alternates. District directors and their alternates were elected on a one-member-one-vote basis in each district, following nominations by regional winery associations. They are:

DISTRICT	DIRECTOR	ALTERNATE
Northern:	Tracey Hawkins Hawk and Horse Vineyards, Lower Lake	Vacant
Sonoma:	Carmen Castaldi Rodney Strong Wine Estates, Healdsburg Steven MacRostie MacRostie Winery & Vineyards, Sonoma Julie Pedroncelli St. John J. Pedroncelli Winery, Geyserville Katie Wetzel Murphy Alexander Valley Vineyards, Healdsburg	James DeBonis Trentadue Winery, Geyserville Harry Wetzel Alexander Valley Vineyards, Healdsburg Louis M. Foppiano Foppiano Wine Company, Healdsburg Debra Mathy Dutcher Crossing, Healdsburg
Napa:	Dennis Cakebread Cakebread Cellars, Rutherford Hugh Davies Schramsberg Vineyards, Calistoga Suzanne Groth Groth Vineyards & Winery, Oakville Alex Ryan Duckhorn Wine Company, St. Helena Delia Viader Viader Vineyards, Deerpark	Michael Reynolds Hall Wines, St. Helena and Rutherford Robin Baggett Alpha Omega Winery, St. Helena Paul Leary Blackbird Vineyards Marketta Fourmeaux Marketta Winery, Napa Eric Ackerman Jackson Family Wines, Santa Rosa
San Francisco Bay:	William Cooper Cooper-Garrod Vineyards, Saratoga	Earl Ault Cedar Mountain Winery, Livermore
Monterey Bay:	Scott Scheid Scheid Vineyards, Salinas	Lawrence Lohr J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines, San Jose
Central Coast:	Gary Eberle Eberle Winery, Paso Robles Stephen Miller The Thornhill Companies, Santa Barbara Gretchen Roddick Hope Family Wines, Paso Robles Karen Steinwachs Buttonwood Farm Winery, Solvang	Frank Ostini Hitching Post Wines, Buellton Nicholas Miller The Thornhill Companies, Santa Barbara Tara Gomez Kita Wines, Lompoc Laura Booras Riverbench Winery, Santa Maria
Southern:	Alexander McGeary Shadow Mountain Vineyards & Winery, Warner Springs	Linda McWilliams San Pascal Winery, La Mesa
Sierra:	Aimee Sunseri New Clairvaux Vineyards, Vina	Steven Millier Milliaire Winery, Murphys
Northern Interior:	David Phillips Michael-David Winery, Lodi	Randall Lange LangeTwins Vineyards & Winery, Lodi
Southern Interior:	Steven Schafer Schafer Ranch, Madera	William Nakata ASV Wines, Inc., Delano

All members elected 20 at-large directors who had been nominated by the Institute's Finance and Administration Committee. Alternates were chosen by at-large directors.

AT-LARGE DIRECTOR	ALTERNATE
Giancarlo Bianchetti Fetzer Vineyards, Hopland	Holly Killion Fetzer Vineyards, Hopland
Virginia Clark Constellation Brands, Victor	Nichole Malec Constellation Brands, Victor
James Coleman E. & J. Gallo Winery, Modesto	To be announced
Cindy DeVries Fetzer Vineyards, Hopland	Rodrigo Maturana Fetzer Vineyards, Hopland
Michael Drobnick O'Neill Vintners & Distillers, Parlier	Matthew Towers O'Neill Vintners & Distillers, Parlier
John Franzia, Jr. Bronco Wine Company, Ceres	Daniel Leonard Bronco Wine Company, Ceres
Joseph Franzia Bronco Wine Company, Ceres	Fredrick Irwin, Jr. Bronco Wine Company, Ceres
Matthew Gallo Gallo Family Vineyards, Healdsburg	Stephanie Gallo E. & J. Gallo Winery, Modesto
Tobin Ginter Rodney Strong Vineyards, Healdsburg	Mark Mathewson Rodney Strong Vineyards, Healdsburg
Chris Indelicato Delicato Family Vineyards, Napa	Jolene Yee Delicato Family Vineyards, Napa
Steve Lohr J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines, San Jose	Thomas Selfridge J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines, San Jose
James O'Malley Brown-Forman Corporation, Louisville	David Perata Sonoma-Cutrer Vineyards, Windsor
Steven Spadarotto Francis Ford Coppola Presents, Geyserville	Ken Minami Francis Ford Coppola Presents, Geyserville
John Sutton The Wine Group, Livermore	Keith Bauman The Wine Group, Livermore
Rick Tigner Jackson Family Wines, St. Helena	Jeff Wesselkamper Jackson Family Wines, St. Helena
Robert Torkelson Trinchero Family Estates, St. Helena	Anthony Torres Trinchero Family Estates, St. Helena
Roger Trinchero Trinchero Family Estates, St. Helena	Peter Larson Trinchero Family Estates, St. Helena
Brian Vos The Wine Group, Ripon	Jeff Dubiel The Wine Group, Ripon
Michael Walker Constellation Brands, San Francisco	Tiffanie De Liberty Constellation Brands, San Francisco
Christine Wentz Wentz Family Estates, Livermore	Amy Hoopes Wentz Family Estates, Livermore

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