



For immediate release

David Forsyth, a pioneer in the Washington State wine industry, receives 2022 Industry Service Award from Washington Winegrowers

Forsyth, formerly head winemaker at Four Feathers Wine Services who helped drive innovation and science among state's wine industry, honored for exceptional career of impactful service

PROSSER, Wash. (Feb. 15, 2022) – David Forsyth, formerly head winemaker at Four Feathers Wine Services and a pioneer in the Washington State wine industry, was given the 2022 Industry Service Award by the Washington Winegrowers association recently at its annual convention.

The award is given annually in recognition of an individual for a lifetime of an exceptional career of impactful service to and for the grape and wine industry.

“When thinking about this award, you have to acknowledge the absolute impact that David has had on Washington’s wine industry,” said Rebecca De Kleine, Four Feathers’ general manager who trained under Forsyth. “Four Feathers would be a completely different winery if David had not been involved. He built and stretched boundaries across the industry, and taught and inspired new generations of winemakers and industry professionals.”

Forsyth has been a fixture in the Washington State wine industry for nearly 40 years. Shortly after receiving his Masters’ degree in Enology from University of California at Davis in 1984, Forsyth joined the winemaking team at Hogue Cellars in Prosser.

Forsyth spent nearly 23 years at Hogue, eventually becoming the winery’s head of winemaking and general manager in 1991. In 1994, he was named “Winemaker of the Year” by the Los Angeles Times.

In 2007, he joined Mercer Estates, another prominent Washington winery, as general manager and winemaker.

Forsyth moved to Four Feathers Wine Services in 2012 to lead the company’s rapidly growing bulk wine and custom winemaking operations.

Forsyth has long been recognized as an industry pioneer, particularly in applying science to the art of winemaking. While at Hogue, he initiated some of the first studies on bottle closures, identifying strengths and weaknesses of commercially available closures. Under Forsyth’s leadership, Hogue was an

early adaptor of screwcap closures and become one of the earliest and largest West Coast wineries to use screwcaps.

Forsyth also introduced micro-oxygenation (MOX) to the Northwest wine industry and installed the MOX system at Hogue that at the time was the largest on the West Coast. He was an early adaptor of Adams-Harbertson phenol analysis for real-time decision making in the winemaking process, leading to an integrated winemaking data management and decision-making system at Hogue.

“David’s enthusiasm and competence has drawn a multitude of colleagues, interns and customers into his vision of our wine region as not only one of world class quality but also cutting edge technology,” said Coman Dinn, who worked with Forsyth for more than a decade at Hogue before succeeding him as head winemaker in 2007. “His commitment to and support of research, scientific method and innovation have benefitted not only our local industry, but have helped spur progress in our normally conservative trade. Wine quality has benefitted, not only for Washington but for anyone who has followed his example.”

About Four Feathers Wine Services

Four Feathers Wine Services provides best-in-class custom winemaking, alcoholic beverage production and packaging services to support our clients in creating and building brands.

Four Feathers Wine Services is a vertically integrated, family-owned winemaking company that farms 3,500 acres of wine grapes and makes and packages custom premium wines for nearly 300 clients nationwide at its state-of-the-art facilities in Prosser, Washington. The company manages the process of custom winemaking from vine to bottle depending on the needs of each client. In addition to turn-key winemaking, Four Feathers offers a full range of services, all within its own state-of-the-art facilities.

The company’s fruit business has continued to grow over the years. Today the company farms and packs premier apples, cherries, pears, blueberries, and wine grapes throughout eastern Washington from the Oregon to Canadian borders.

For information about Four Feathers Wine Services, please see www.fourfeathers.com.

About Washington Winegrowers Association

Washington Winegrowers serves as the synergistic leader and unifying voice—through advocacy and education—for growers, vintners, partners and policymakers. We envision a thriving industry—recognized globally—for quality wines and vineyards, supported by exceptional education and leading edge research. For information, please see www.wawinegrowers.org.

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