



NORCAL • PUBLIC • MEDIA STARS *of* FOOD & WINE AWARDS

NorCal Public Media Opens Nominations for the 2026 Stars of Food & Wine Awards

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Northern California Public Media (NorCal) has opened nominations for its 2026 [NorCal Public Media Stars of Food & Wine Awards](#), celebrating individuals and organizations that exemplify excellence, innovation, and a commitment to the betterment of our local communities and environment through agriculture, viticulture, sustainability, education and compassion.. The event will take place on Saturday, March 21, 2026.



NorCal is dedicated to shining a spotlight on environmental issues and their impact on our communities, and its [Center for Environmental Reporting](#) is supported in part by this fundraising event.

Local leaders and organizations within the agriculture, viticulture, food and wine industries play a pivotal role in fostering a positive impact on the environment, cultivating sustainable futures, and nurturing the well-being of people in our communities.

By recognizing these stars in their field NorCal's hope is to instill lasting inspiration and positive change in our environments and communities.

The NorCal Public Media Food & Wine Awards won the 2024 Public Media Award for Best Community Special Event at the National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA) conference.

Previous Award Winners included:

GRAND AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP

The Sterling Family - Iron Horse Vineyard & Winery

Albert Straus – Straus Family Creamery



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Alice Waters – The Edible Schoolyard Project and Chez Panisse

EDUCATING FOR THE FUTURE

Susan Gilmore – North Bay Children’s Center Garden of Eatin’
Deborah Bertolucci – Geyserville Schools
Betsy Fischer – Santa Rosa Junior College
Brianna Noble – Urban Cowgirl Ranch
Karen Luna and David Tuttle – Santa Clara Unified School District
Carol Rathmann – Forget Me Not Farm
Daniel Kedan, Culinary Institute of America

LAND STEWARDS/REGENERATION

Marty Griffin – The Martin Griffin Preserve at Audubon Canyon Ranch
Susan and Lou Preston – Preston Farm and Winery
Lynda Hopkins – Sonoma County District Supervisor, Russian River and Sonoma Coast
Yael, Paul and Zureal Bernier – Bernier Farms
Don McEnhill – Russian Riverkeeper
Christopher Herrera – Deep Roots Farm
Elizabeth and Paul Kaiser – Singing Frogs Farm
Mimi and Peter Buckley – Front Porch Farm
Kyle and Katina Connaughton – Single Thread Farm and Restaurant
Hector Alvarez – Hector’s Honey
Tucker Taylor – Kendall Jackson Culinary Gardens

AQUACULTURE/SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD

John Finger and Terry Sawyer-Hog Island Oyster Company.

IMPROVING WORKER RIGHTS AND CONDITIONS

Ayudando Latinos a Soñar
Douglas Keane – Cyrus Restaurant

FOOD EQUITY

June Michaels – Sonoma Food Runners
Dr. Gail Myers – Farms to Grow
Redwood Empire Food Bank



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Duskie Estes – Farm to Pantry
Judith and Chanowk Yisrael - Yisrael Farms
Michael Dimock – Roots of Change

WINE WORLD GAME CHANGERS

Nova Cadamatre
Julie Lumgair
Bettina Sichel
Dr. Anita Oberholster
Cathy Corison
Steve and Jill Klein Matthiasson
Phil Corturri

HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Chef Martin Yan

ABOUT THE EVENT

The NorCal Public Media Stars of Food & Wine Awards support the PBS, NPR and independent public television stations and streaming services provided to the Bay Area by NorCal Public Media, and their work in reporting on the environment, climate change issues and solutions.

Nominations close October 15, 2026 and an independent committee will select and announce the 2026 winners in the coming months. [The online nomination form is available here.](#)

Tickets open January 1, 2026.

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