



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

NorCal Public Media Unveils Winners of the Stars of Food & Wine— *4th Annual Fundraiser Supports Local Media and Environmental Reporting*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—Rohnert Park, CA, December 9, 2025

Northern California Public Media (NorCal Public Media) today announced winners of its [4th Annual Stars of Food and Wine Awards](#). This year's event arrives at a critical moment for local media and independent environmental reporting, with proceeds directly supporting NorCal Public Media's [Center for Environmental Reporting](#) and its mission to keep trusted, community-focused journalism strong.

NorCal Public Media will host its 4th Annual *Stars of Food & Wine Awards* on Saturday, March 21, 2026 at Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, CA.

The *Stars of Food and Wine Awards* honor the individuals, families, and organizations across agriculture, viticulture, food, wine, and food justice who are shaping a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient future. These honorees are not simply leaders in their fields—they are visionaries whose work embodies the forward-looking action our region and our planet urgently need. Each of the nominees puts community at the heart of their mission, embracing a true “triple bottom line”—a commitment to people, planet, and prosperity, proving that environmental responsibility and economic vitality can rise together. Their leadership reminds us that change is not only possible, but is already happening right here at home.

NorCal Public Media's annual celebration recently earned the Public Media Award for Best Community Special Event from the National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA).

This year, the event moves to Sonoma State University, underscoring NorCal Public Media's expanding partnerships with local educational institutions and offering many attendees their first opportunity to experience the campus. VIP guests will enjoy a private reception in the Student Center's 3rd-floor Overlook Bistro space before all attendees gather in the Grand Ballroom for a tasting, followed by a dinner and awards ceremony.

From an impressive list of nominations submitted, the 2026 Award Categories and Honorees are:



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LAND STEWARDS / REGENERATION

The Giacomini Family, Point Reyes Farmstead Cheese Company

Leaders in regenerative dairy, methane reduction, conservation planning, and sustainable land management.

From pioneering methane digestion and rotational grazing to decades of conservation leadership, the Giacomini family has transformed their 1959 dairy into a nationally recognized model of environmental stewardship and artisan cheesemaking—now led by the second generation of Giacomini sisters.



MAKERS AND ARTISANS

Chef Preeti Mistry, Silver Oak Cellars

Award-winning chef and cultural voice redefining California cuisine through global flavors and sustainable, seasonal cooking.

A James Beard–nominated chef known for their bold, inclusive culinary lens and high-profile cultural commentary, Chef Preeti is set to lead Silver Oak’s culinary program in 2026, expanding the food-and-wine experience with globally inspired, seasonally rooted menus.



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ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Dan Imhoff, Wild Farm Alliance

Author, advocate, and ecological agriculture communicator working to restore biodiversity across farming landscapes.

Imhoff's decades-long advocacy and communications work helped fuel the national movement toward wild-friendly farming. His leadership with Wild Farm Alliance continues to catalyze biodiversity practices across the country.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Margo True, Civil Eats

Award-winning journalist advancing deeper public understanding of food systems, climate, and community resilience.

True's editorial leadership at Civil Eats highlights the intersections of food, climate, justice, and public policy at a time when accurate reporting has never been more essential.



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FOOD EQUITY

ExtraFood

Champions of food recovery and equitable access, leading innovative solutions to hunger and food waste in the Bay Area.

ExtraFood's mission is to end hunger and wasted food in the Bay Area through a regional food recovery program. They rescue excess fresh food from businesses and schools —fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products, eggs, meat, baked goods, and prepared meals — and immediately deliver it to people facing food insecurity.



WINE WORLD GAME CHANGERS

Grgich Hills Estate

Iconic wine producer leading the Bay Area as its largest regeneratively farmed winery.

Dedicated to sustainability, biodiversity and equitable treatment of farm workers, Grgich also works with local conservation groups on native plant repatriation, and their knowledgeable staff speak at events throughout the country sharing these successful practices with other farmers and vintners.

The **Grand Award for Outstanding Leadership** will be announced in the coming weeks.



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ABOUT THE EVENT

Proceeds from the *Stars of Food & Wine Awards* support NorCal Public Media's PBS, NPR, and independent public media services, and *The Center for Environmental Reporting's* award-winning programs and climate solutions.

Returning to lead the 2026 culinary team is Chef Daniel Kedan, acclaimed restaurateur, Culinary Institute of America instructor, and past award recipient.

Attendees will enjoy a welcome sparkling wine and small bites, a tasting of local beverages, and a seated dinner with the awards ceremony. The event will once again be hosted by Clark Wolf, host of *Savoring Sonoma* on KRCB 104.9FM, food industry expert, and author.

Tickets go on sale on or before January 1, 2026 at norcalpublicmedia.org/awards.

A limited number of press passes are available upon request. Images and additional information can be provided.

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More information and links:

Learn more about [NorCal Public Media](#)
[The Center for Environmental Reporting](#) at NorCal Public Media
[The NorCal Public Media Stars of Food & Wine website](#)

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