

## press release

### **Resorts World Sentosa Celebrates Great Wines of the World with Inaugural 'Wine Pinnacle Awards 2019'**

*To be held in October, a three-day celebration of excellence and diversity in the world of wines at the first-ever nomination-based awards and festival will feature wines selected by over 80 wine professionals*



**SINGAPORE, 19 June 2019** – Resorts World Sentosa has assembled an illustrious five-member Wine Committee helmed by Ms Jeannie Cho Lee, the first Asian Master of Wine, who leads an over 80-strong jury of wine professionals from around the globe – comprising Masters of Wine, Master Sommeliers, wine auctioneers, and sommeliers from top fine-dining restaurants – for the launch of its inaugural 'Wine Pinnacle Awards 2019'.

Presented by Genting Singapore and to be held at its flagship lifestyle destination, Resorts World Sentosa from **10 to 12 October** this year, the highly anticipated three-day celebration of excellence and diversity in the world of wines is the first-ever nomination-based recognition of wines without restrictions on origin or need for submissions or entry fees. Votes by the independent expert jury will be gathered by way of a secured online nomination ballot, with the nomination list to be revealed in August. Taking place alongside the gala dinner and awards ceremony on 10 October is The GREAT Wine & Dine Festival where gourmands can enjoy three days of good food paired with many of the nominated wines.

Together, Wine Pinnacle Awards and The GREAT Wine & Dine Festival are poised to be the first major wine event in Southeast Asia where distinguished wine experts will join hands with celebrity chefs to elevate the appreciation of wine to a whole new epicurean level, setting Resorts World Sentosa apart as a top dining destination for food and wine connoisseurs.

## The Wine Pinnacle Awards Committee

The Wine Pinnacle Awards Committee comprises five internationally reputable wine experts namely Ms Jeannie Cho Lee of Hong Kong, Mr Kenichi Ohashi of Japan, Mr Doug Frost of the United States, Mr Oz Clarke of the United Kingdom and Mr Andreas Larsson of Sweden. They are responsible for establishing the nomination structure and formation of a credible jury. The committee will also oversee the nomination process to ensure there is sole focus on quality and merit. Please refer to [Annex A](#) for biographies and quotes of committee members.

Ms Jeannie Cho Lee said, "Given that the Wine Pinnacle Awards is based on expert nominations instead of paid submissions, it opens up for an entire world of wines to be recognised and awarded. For the first time, we are honouring deserving wine producers and wines that may otherwise fall under the radar of wine competitions. We have designed the award categories such that we can celebrate wines across a broad spectrum, from young wines to mature wines that are ready to drink, discovering hidden treasures that are currently under-appreciated or under-valued. This will be a truly groundbreaking awards platform that will hopefully generate lots interest and excitement among the wine community."

## The Nomination Process

The Wine Pinnacle Awards is a first-of-its-kind recognition initiative for the wine industry that is based on a nomination model. Without the need for submissions of wines or entry fees, it brings together an unprecedented panel involving over 80 top wine professionals from around the world who will nominate wines of their choice without restrictions on origin.

## The Award Categories

The celebration of excellence and diversity is evident from the 27 award categories that include recognition towards mature wines that are ready to drink such as Best Bordeaux Wine from 1996 and Best Burgundy White from 2008, 'Best Organic/Natural Wine of the Year', 'Best Recent Releases', 'Best Chinese Red', 'Best Young Winemaker of the Year', and 'Hidden Treasures'. Please refer to [Annex B](#) for full list of categories.

"Of all the categories, I am most looking forward to see what will be nominated for the category of Best Organic/Natural Wine of the Year. I strongly believe that organic wines will become commonplace and perhaps even mainstream so it would be interesting to see how wine producers exercised their craftsmanship while managing the challenges and opportunities presented by the world phenomenon of climate change and sustainability," said Mr Oz Clarke, Wine Pinnacle Awards Committee Member and wine expert.

The crown jewel of them all is the 'Grand Jury Award' that will be determined by the Wine Pinnacle Awards Committee. The winner of this coveted title will be chosen from amongst all the winners from the other categories.

## The Wine Pinnacle Awards Gala Dinner & Awards Ceremony on 10 October 2019

Preceding the three-day celebration is the Wine Pinnacle Awards gala dinner and awards ceremony on 10 October 2019, which will be held at the Resorts World Ballroom. It will be a celebration of excellence and diversity in the world of wines paired with extraordinary food.

## The GREAT Wine & Dine Festival: 10 to 12 October 2019

After two successful editions of The GREAT Food Festival, Resorts World Sentosa elevates the event to a new level this year with The GREAT Wine & Dine Festival which will showcase some of the world's best wines as nominated by the world's best palates. Held in conjunction with the Wine Pinnacle Awards, The GREAT Wine & Dine Festival will take place from 10 to 12 October 2019 at the Resorts World Convention Centre. Bringing together many of the wines from among the nominees in the Wine Pinnacle Awards, the festival is set to be the premier and most extensive wine event in Southeast Asia for both wine professionals and wine enthusiasts. Wine lovers can look forward to masterclasses by the world's top wine critics, tasting and acquiring the world's best wines in one place, a tantalising spread of food and desserts as well as wine pairing dinners at Resorts World Sentosa's celebrity chef restaurants. Also making an appearance are new products, gorgeously decorated booths, over 200 wines and craft sake.

Tickets to the gala dinner and festival will be on sale in July 2019. For the latest news about the event, please visit: [www.winepinnacle.com](http://www.winepinnacle.com).

- Ends -

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## ABOUT RESORTS WORLD SENTOSA

Resorts World Sentosa (RWS), Asia's premium lifestyle destination resort, is located on Singapore's resort island of Sentosa. Spanning 49 hectares, RWS is home to world-class attractions including Universal Studios Singapore, S.E.A. Aquarium, the Maritime Experiential Museum, Dolphin Island and Adventure Cove Waterpark. Complementing the adventure and adrenaline of its theme parks and attractions are six unique luxury hotels, the world-class Resorts World Convention Centre, a casino and the Asian flagship of a world-renowned destination spa. RWS offers award-winning dining experiences and exciting cuisine from around the world across its many renowned celebrity chef restaurants, establishing itself as a key player in Singapore's vibrant and diverse dining scene and a leading gourmet destination in Asia for epicureans. The integrated resort also offers world-class entertainment, from original resident productions to concerts and public shows such as Crane Dance and Lake of Dreams. RWS has been named "Best Integrated Resort" since 2011 for eight consecutive years at the TTG Travel Awards which recognises the best of Asia-Pacific's travel industry.

RWS is wholly owned by Genting Singapore, a company of the Genting Group. For more information, please visit [www.rwsentosa.com](http://www.rwsentosa.com).

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## EDITORS' NOTES

1. High resolution photographs can be downloaded from link:  
<https://app.box.com/s/g4llcvj2n8o248u6ybmtbnvddzdzd733o>
2. All photographs are to be attributed to Resorts World Sentosa (圣淘沙名胜世界) unless otherwise stated.

## Wine Pinnacle Awards: Wine Committee Members



*"The Wine Pinnacle Awards is unique in that awards are being given to wines that are mature and ready to drink, not only young, recently-released wines. It also removes the limitation of awarding wines that are among a paid pool of submissions. Instead, the Wine Pinnacle Awards focuses on pure quality and merit, encompassing the world of wines without commercial limitations."* – **Jeannie Cho Lee, MW**

### Brief Profile:



Jeannie Cho Lee is the first Asian Master of Wine and an award-winning author, television host, editor, wine critic, judge and educator. She has been a professor at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University where she helped to launch the Master of Science (MSc) in International Wine Management program since 2012. Recognized for her contributions to the food and drinks industry, Lee was selected as one of the top 100 most influential people in Hong Kong by the South China Morning Post and Debrett's in November 2015. She was named the 25<sup>th</sup> most powerful person in wine by Decanter magazine (UK) and was listed among the top 60 most influential people in wine by La Revue du Vin (France) in 2015 and won the International Vinitaly Award (Italy) in 2009.



*"Rarely have many of the world's most highly-regarded wines been entered in international wine competitions. How wonderful it is that in the Wine Pinnacle Awards, all wines including those very highly-regarded bottles will have the chance to be voted by close to a hundred leading wine professionals from around the world based on their experiences, and the awarded wines will be announced to wine lovers around the world. It will bring dreams and new excitement to the global wine scene, contributing to a more dynamic wine industry."* – **Kenichi Ohashi, MW**

### Brief Profile:

Kenichi Ohashi is a Master of Wine and sake expert based in Tokyo, Japan. He is the third-generation owner of Yamajin Co. Ltd., a distribution company specialised in wine, sake and local spirits. He also owns a consultancy company, Red Bridge Co. Ltd. and is a Director of Somersault Co. Ltd., the biggest business group of liquor retailers in Japan. He was awarded Personality of the Year 2016 at the International Wine Challenge. Ohashi has

	<p>been certified as a Sake Expert Assessor, the highest qualification of National Research Institute of Brewing Japan, and is also the sake co-chairman of the International Wine Challenge.</p>
	<p><i>“The Wine Pinnacle Awards are the first awards that take into account the diverse global landscape of wine and, by drawing nominations from an unprecedented breadth of influencers worldwide, we believe that we will best represent the remarkable flowering of wine around the planet.” – <b>Doug Frost, MS, MW</b></i></p> <p><u>Brief Profile:</u></p> <p>Doug Frost is a Master of Wine (MW) and Master Sommelier (MS) as well as an author and wine consultant based in Kansas City, Missouri. Frost is one of three individuals in the world to hold simultaneously the MW and MS titles. The Wine Spectator has bestowed the accolade of Master of Spirits on Frost. In 2006, Frost along with a few partners founded the Beverage Alcohol Resource (BAR), a spirits and cocktail educational organisation. Cheers Magazine selected BAR and its founders as Innovators of the Year for 2007. He was awarded Beverage Innovator of the Year 2009 by Cheers Magazine.</p>
 <p><i>Photo credit: Keith Barnes Photography</i></p>	<p><i>“To have the world's greatest wine experts nominate their favourites for the Wine Pinnacle Awards is a fantastic thrill. The personal choices of the world's top Masters of Wine and Master Sommeliers will make these awards tingle with excitement.” – <b>Oz Clarke</b></i></p> <p><u>Brief Profile:</u></p> <p>Oz Clarke is one of the world’s leading wine experts, whose formidable reputation is based on his extensive wine knowledge and accessible, no-nonsense approach. His passion for the subject dates from his student days at Oxford University, where he won tasting competitions at a precociously early age. Since then, his tasting skills have won him an international reputation and he is acknowledged as having one of the finest palates of anyone writing about wine today. He brings a refreshingly unorthodox wit and directness to the subject and has won all the major wine writing awards both in the UK and the USA. Oz has written numerous books about wine and currently presents a weekly wine report on British prime time television.</p>



*"The Wine Pinnacle Awards is a fresh way of letting the world's best palates agree on what's really the best of the best without the restrictions of price brackets and medals. These are the finest wines from around the world, fully ready to drink today."* – **Andreas Larsson**

**Brief Profile:**

Andreas Larsson is the Best Sommelier of the World (2007 ASI). He has a discerning palate and is a passionate wine lover. He is known not only for his incredible tasting abilities and vast knowledge, but also for his friendly and professional approach. He has a relaxed demeanor and is a highly sought-after taster, speaker and educator within the vast field of gastronomy, food, wine and other beverages. Despite his busy schedule, he still maintains his sommelier functions as the Wine Director at PM & Vänner, a renowned restaurant located in Växjö Sweden.

### **Wine Pinnacle Awards: Categories**

1. Best Bordeaux Wine from 1996
2. Best Burgundy White from 2008
3. Best Burgundy Red from 2005
4. Best Barolo from 1999
5. Best Tuscan Red from 2007
6. Best Australian Shiraz/Syrah from 2008
7. Best Cabernet-based California Wine from 2009
8. Best 2002 Vintage Champagne
9. Best Rioja/Ribera del Duero from 2005
10. Best Chinese Red
11. Best Rose in the World
12. Best Organic/Natural Wine of the Year
13. Black Swan Wine of the Year (Most Thought-provoking Wine)
14. Best Recent Release New World Pinot Noir
15. Best Recent Release Sauvignon Blanc
16. Best Recent Release Non-Champagne Sparkling Wine
17. Best Recent Release South American Red
18. Best Recent Release Non-Burgundy Chardonnay
19. Hidden Treasure: Bordeaux
20. Hidden Treasure: Burgundy
21. Hidden Treasure: Piedmont
22. Hidden Treasure: Australia
23. Best Young Winemaker of the Year (Under 40)
24. Best Friend of the Earth (Most Environmentally-Conscious)
25. Unsung Hero
26. Top Wine Influencer (Under 45)
27. Grand Jury Award

