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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**WINNERS ANNOUNCED FOR SOMMCON® YOUNG LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP
FOR WINE INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS UNDER THE AGE OF 30**

*Winners Selected to Receive Conference Scholarship To SommCon®, Providing Access to
Education and Networking From the Top Minds in the Industry*

San Diego, CA (November 2, 2017) – [SommCon](#)®, a leading Southern California conference for wine industry professionals and serious enthusiasts, held in San Diego, CA, November 15-17 has announced this year's winners for the [Young Leaders Summit Scholarship](#) Presented by Tasting Panel / The SOMM Journal and Wine Ring.

The nine aspiring professionals, all under the age of 30, with a passion for entering a profession in the wine and beverage industry or expanding their knowledge receive complimentary conference registration to three days of education at the conference.

Through the Young Leaders Summit Scholarship, recipients grow their knowledge and develop their palate by participating in tastings, panel discussions, and keynote presentations. Recipients have multiple opportunities to expand their skillset and network with today's most acclaimed wine professionals, including: Master Sommeliers, Masters of Wine, Hoteliers, Wine Directors, Distributors, and Wine Educators. The winners for this years Young Leader's Summit Scholarship are:

- Christie Basinas | Whole Foods Market, Wine Specialist and Assistant Wine Buyer
- Devan Knobloch | City Winery, Restaurant Manager
- Megan McGannon | Madera, Server
- Cristie Norman | Spago Beverly Hills, Sommelier
- Sophie Oppelt | The Broadmoor, Sommelier
- Muriel Robotta | Herb & Wood, Host and Server's Assistant
- Christopher Santos | JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort and Spa, Beverage Manager
- Rachel Speck | Vinmetrica and Little Oaks Winery, Associate Scientist and Winemaker
- Austin Tabbone | High Street Wine Co., Beverage Leader

SommCon® takes place November 15-17, 2017 at Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina in San Diego, California. For more information or to purchase conference registration, visit: SommConUSA.com.

ABOUT SOMMCON®: [SommCon](#)® is a leading conference and exposition for sommelier-level education and training of wine professionals and serious enthusiasts. The conference brings together industry professionals of all levels to discuss, develop, and lead the

conversation on the business of wine. SommCon's® education is built by Sommeliers for trade professionals and serious enthusiasts who have a passion for wine and spirits and an unyielding quest for knowledge. Attendees learn and taste their way through educational sessions and classes, complete with a trade-only tasting. SommCon® is produced by Fast Forward, an event management agency specializing in productions for the wine, beer, spirits and hospitality industries, fastforwardevents.com.

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