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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**WINNERS ANNOUNCED FOR SOMMCON® YOUNG LEADER'S 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 7, 2016) – [SommCon](#)®, a leading Southern California conference and educational summit for wine industry professionals and serious enthusiasts, held in San Diego, CA, November 16-19 has announced this year's winners for the [Young Leader's Summit Scholarship](#) Presented by Tasting Panel / The SOMM Journal, Wine Ring, Society of Wine Educators (SWE), and SommSelect

The 16 aspiring professionals, all under the age of 30, with a passion for entering a profession in the wine industry or expanding their knowledge will receive complimentary conference registration to three days of education at the conference.

Through the Young Leader's Summit Scholarship, up-and-coming professionals 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 year's Young Leader's Summit Scholarship are:

- Hailey Alexander | Boise, Idaho – Enologist, Cider Wines
- Kaitlin Brooks | San Diego, California – Wine Specialist, Cueva Bar
- Erica Catubig | Seattle, Washington – Wine Director, The Carlile Room
- Jacob Conn | Las Vegas, Nevada – Management Associate Program, MGM Resorts International
- Jamie Evans | Napa, California – Associate PR Manager, Folio Fine Wine Partners
- Allie Ferguson | San Diego, California – Wine Club Director/Business Assistant, Vineyard Grant James
- Olivia Haugen | Los Angeles, California – Sales Associate, Venokado
- Christanna Honer | Carrboro, North Carolina – Assistant Wine and Beer Manager, Southern Season
- Alison Louis dit Alleaume | Geneva, Switzerland – Student, Geneva, Switzerland
- Kelly Nicolas | Los Angeles, California – Marketing and Operations Coordinator, Veritas Imports
- Cara Pelletier | Harrisburg, Pennsylvania – Fine Dining Server, Devon Seafood + Steak Hershey Entertainment & Resorts
- Benjamin Probe | El Cajon, California – Server, Ruth Chris Downtown San Diego
- Domenica Richards | San Diego, California – Assistant Manager, Eddie V's Prime Seafood

- Nicole Sanchez | Napa, California – Wine Ambassador, Trinchero Napa Valley
- Samantha Stowell | La Habra, California – Sommelier, The Barrel Room
- Erika Szot | San Jose, California – Beverage Director, Chez TJ

SommCon® brings together top industry professionals to discuss, develop and lead the discussion on the business of wine. Held at the Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina from November 16-19, 2016, wine industry professionals and serious enthusiasts of all levels receive convenient and affordable access to education and networking opportunities through 50 sessions that bring together some of the greatest thought leaders, entrepreneurs and artisans.

SommCon® takes place November 16-19, 2016 at Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina in San Diego, California. For more information or to purchase conference registration, visit: SommConUSA.com and follow SommCon® on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Discounted accommodations are available at the Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina for SommCon attendees, make reservations [here](#).

ABOUT SOMMCON®: SommCon® is a leading conference and exposition for education and training of beverage professionals and serious enthusiasts. Held November 16 - 19, 2016, in San Diego, CA, the four-day 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 industry thought leaders 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 keynote sessions and educational classes, complete with a trade-only tasting and expo. SommCon® is produced by Fast Forward, an event management agency specializing in productions for the wine, beer and spirits industry, fastforwardevents.com.

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