

## **Honorary Membership Policy**

### **Purpose**

To establish the reasons for granting Honorary Membership and the policy and procedure for awarding Honorary membership to individuals.

### **Reasons for awarding Honorary Membership**

Offering honorary memberships provides WineGB with an opportunity to enhance its commercial reach and reputation within the UK wine industry and beyond. By recognising influential figures — such as leading vintners, wine writers, or champions of British wine — as honorary members, WineGB can elevate its profile and strengthen its authority as the voice of the industry. These individuals often bring valuable networks, media influence, and promotional reach, acting as ambassadors who help raise awareness of British wines. This increased visibility can attract new members, encourage trade partnerships, boost consumer interest, and ultimately support the growth and success of the UK wine sector.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

#### Exceptional Contribution

The nominee must have demonstrated exceptional contributions to the UK Wine Industry through their work, advocacy, leadership, or expertise in a relevant field, significantly impacting the Industry's goals and objectives.

#### Reputation and Standing

The nominee should have a recognized reputation and standing within the relevant field, demonstrating high ethical standards and positive impact on the community.

#### Not a Current Member and derives no commercial benefit from the Industry

An honorary membership cannot be awarded to an existing member of WineGB or any individual who derives a personal commercial benefit from the industry. Honorary Memberships cannot be granted for Group A or Group B Membership, they are granted to Individuals only.

### **Nomination Process**

#### Initiation

Any member of WineGB can suggest a potential honorary member to be considered for nomination by their local Regional Association (Regions). Initial suggestions should be made in writing to the Chair of the member's Regional Association.

#### Nominations

The Committee of the Regional Association should review all suggestions received and consider and agree on any that they wish to formally nominate to the Board of WineGB (the Board) to receive an honorary membership.

Nominations for honorary membership are expected to be rare and highly selective, reflecting the exceptional contribution required for such recognition. To maintain the prestige of this status, no more than two honorary members may be nominated by each region in any given year.

For each individual nominated, the Region should complete a nomination form in the prescribed format setting out the reasons for the nomination.

Nominations should be submitted annually to the Company Secretary of WineGB by the 30<sup>th</sup> September each year for consideration for membership for the following year.

### **Review and Evaluation**

The Chair of the WineGB Board will review all nominations received and assess whether the nominee meets the established criteria for honorary membership. Those that meet the criteria will be recommended to the Board for approval at their next meeting.

For those that do not meet the criteria, the CEO will write to the nominating region explaining the reasons for not putting them forward.

### **Approval**

The final decision to award honorary membership shall be made by a majority vote of the Board and, for those approved, Membership will be effective from the 1<sup>st</sup> January of the following year and will run continuously until cancelled by the Honorary Member or the Board.

### **Acceptance**

All approved nominees will be contacted in writing and formally offered an Honorary Membership which they will be required to accept in writing prior to the start of the new year.

### **Resignation**

Honorary Members can resign their membership at any time by writing to the Company Secretary to confirm this.

### **Annual Review and Termination**

The Board will carry out an annual review of all Honorary Memberships to ensure that they are still appropriate. If, on a majority vote, the Board consider that the Honorary Membership should be withdrawn they will write to the Honorary Member setting out the reasons for termination and confirming the date of termination. The Board reserve the right, on a majority vote, to terminate any Honorary Membership at any time if considered necessary.

### **Rights and Responsibilities of Honorary Members**

#### Recognition

New Honorary Members will be announced annually to WineGB members and the UK Wine Industry as individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the Industry.

#### Benefits of Honorary Membership

Honorary members will not be required to pay any fees for their membership.

They will receive the same benefits as Individual Associate Members. These currently include:

Membership of their local Regional Association

Access to the Members Forum but with the added ability to post messages where they are encouraged to share their expertise and experience

Invitations to Member events, conferences and meetings

Receipt of the regular WineGB communications including WineGB weekly and industry reports

Honorary Members do not have any voting rights and may not hold leadership positions unless expressly approved by the Board.

**Important Considerations**

Equality

Provide equality, fairness and respect in all nomination considerations and decisions.

Transparency

Ensure the nomination process and decision-making criteria are transparent to all members.

Confidentiality

Maintain the confidentiality of nominations and deliberations during the evaluation process.

Communication

Clearly communicate the honorary membership status and its implications to the recipient.

**Review and Amendment of Policy**

This Honorary Membership policy may be reviewed and amended by the Board as needed to reflect changing Industry needs and priorities.

Approved: 23 July 2025

Updated:

**Nomination form for WineGB Honorary Member**

<b>Name of Nominee</b>				
<b>Company</b>				
<b>Address</b>				
<b>Email address</b>				
<b>Describe reason for nomination</b> (Continue on another sheet if needed)				
<b>Explain their contribution to WineGB and the industry</b> How have they demonstrated significant and/or sustained contribution?				
<b>Explain how they have demonstrated leadership in the Industry</b>				
<b>Nominating Region</b>				
<b>Nomination authorised by:</b>	<table border="1"><tr><td><b>Name of Chair:</b></td><td><b>Signature:</b></td><td><b>Date:</b></td></tr></table>	<b>Name of Chair:</b>	<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
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