



CASA VINICOLA ZONIN

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PRESS RELEASE

Gianni Zonin Honored with the Leonardo Award by Giorgio Napolitano, President of the Republic of Italy

*The President of Casa Vinicola Zonin Received the Accolade Today in Rome for his Contribution
to Promoting Italian Excellence Around the World*

Rome, 20 February 2014 – Gianni Zonin, President of Casa Vinicola Zonin, received the Leonardo Award today in Rome. During the ceremony at the Quirinale Palace, the President of the Republic of Italy, Giorgio Napolitano, presented this honor to Gianni Zonin in the presence of the Deputy Minister for Economic Growth, Carlo Calenda, the Vice President of Confindustria Diana Bracco, the Chairman of ICE, the Italian institute for foreign trade, Riccardo Monti, and the President of the Leonardo Award, Luisa Todini.

Instituted in 1993, the **Leonardo Award is an annual prize for entrepreneurs who have significantly contributed towards establishing and consolidating the image of “Made in Italy”** around the world. Prior to Gianni Zonin, others who have won this award include fashion designers Laura Biagiotti and Giorgio Armani, oncologist Umberto Veronesi, architect Renzo Piano, and FIAT President Giovanni Agnelli.

Considered **one of the most important entrepreneurs in the Italian wine industry**, in the course of his career Gianni Zonin has vastly expanded his family company, whose origins date back to 1821. He has acquired 10 estates in the seven most prestigious wine regions in Italy as well as a world-class winery at Barboursville, VA, seeking always to highlight the history, culture, traditions and uniqueness of the finest *terroirs* for the production of great wines. Passion, dedication and vision are the main qualities that have characterized the private and professional life of Gianni Zonin, who also previously won the Leonardo Quality Award in 2000.

"I am grateful to President Giorgio Napolitano, the Leonardo Committee and the Italian institutions for this award," said Gianni Zonin at the end of the ceremony, *"and special thanks go above all to those who work with me and especially to my wife Silvana and my three sons, Domenico, Francesco and Michele, who share my great love for the world of wine. Italy is a centre of excellence in many areas, including wine, food, tourism, fashion, design, culture and landscape. In collaboration with various Italian institutions and associations, my family has always been committed -and will be even more so in the future - to promoting Italian heritage and tradition all over the world".*

The Leonardo Award comes one month after another important honor: on January 27, in New York, Gianni Zonin received the prestigious **2013 Lifetime Achievement Award** from the authoritative American magazine **Wine Enthusiast**, as a very influential personality in the international wine industry. In past editions, figures such as Baron Eric de Rothschild, Robert Mondavi and Miguel Torres have received the same award.

For information:

Alessandra Zambonin - Press & Communication Manager – alessandra.zambonin@zonin.it - tel. +39 0444 640 290 / + 39 348 9900019