



# CASA VINICOLA ZONIN

VINTNERS SINCE 1821

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### Gianni Zonin Honored with the Wine Enthusiast's 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award

*Casa Vinicola Zonin's Chairman, Gianni Zonin, received 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award on January 27<sup>th</sup> at Wine Enthusiast's Annual Wine Star Awards gala dinner in New York City*

Considered a wine industry pioneer, Gianni Zonin – Chairman of Casa Vinicola Zonin – was honored with the **2013 Lifetime Achievement Award** presented by Wine Enthusiast magazine for his overall contribution to the wine industry.

**Wine Enthusiast Wine Star Awards** honor individuals and companies that have made outstanding achievements in the wine world. Miguel Torres, Baron Eric de Rothschild, Piero Antinori and Robert Mondavi are some of the celebrated individuals from around the world that have won the Lifetime Achievement Award before Gianni Zonin.

With a professional career spanning over five decades and an innovative international vision, “*Gianni Zonin has succeeded in an unparalleled number of achievements over the course of his lifetime*” stated **Wine Enthusiast editor and publisher, Adam Strum**, emphasizing that “*being the first to look beyond not only his own Italian region, but across the ocean for opportunities in China and America, he embodies what it truly means to be a wine industry pioneer.*”

Gianni Zonin was born in 1938, in Gambellara, in the Province of Vicenza, located in northeastern Italy. After earning a diploma in Oenology from the Enological Institute of Conegliano Veneto, he graduated with a Law Degree. In 1957, he joined Casa Vinicola Zonin, the family owned company of vintners since 1821, and he became president in 1967, at the age of 29. During his 56 years of leadership, he drastically expanded the company, acquiring 10 magnificent estates for a total 2,000 hectares (5,000 acres) in the 7 most prestigious wine regions in Italy as well as a world-class winery in Barboursville, VA.

Today, the Zonin family heads one of the leading private winemaking companies in Europe employing a total of 700 people and reported sales of 150 millions euros in 2013 with foreign markets accounting for 70% of total sales. Alongside President Gianni Zonin, his three sons Domenico, Francesco and Michele oversee different areas of the company: Domenico, technical and production management, Francesco, sales & marketing and Michele, financial control.



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Proud to receive the 2013 Wine Enthusiast Lifetime Achievement Award, **Gianni Zonin** said *“It’s not just an honor for me, for my family and for those who work with us, but also for Italy. It’s a confirmation of how well Italians are working in both viticulture and winemaking.”*

The presentation of the award took place on January 27<sup>th</sup> at the Wine Enthusiast’s Annual Gala Dinner in New York City, at the Astor Hall & Celeste Bartow Forum of the New York Public Library. Together with his family, Gianni Zonin was present at the awards ceremony along with Luca Paschina - Barboursville Vineyards general manager and winemaker, Massimo Tuzzi - Casa Vinicola Zonin’s Chief International Officer, Steve Howard - Zonin USA National Sales Director, and Pietro Morelli, Zonin USA Marketing Director.

*For information:*

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