



PROUDLY OWNED BY THE CALABRIA FAMILY SINCE 1945



## ***2010 FAMILY BUSINESS OF THE YEAR*** **WESTEND ESTATE WINES WINS IT BACK TO BACK**

**Monday 3rd May 2010**

**The peak body for family businesses, Family Business Australia (FBA) announced Griffith-based winery, Westend Estate Wines as the 2010 winner of the Third Generation category in the NSW & ACT Family Business of the Year Awards for the second consecutive year.**

The award ceremony was held on Thursday the 29th of April at the Sofitel Wentworth hotel in Sydney. Owners, Bill & Lena Calabria, attended the state awards on behalf of the company. Enthused Bill described the win, "This is truly a fantastic achievement to all family and staff members from Westend Estate. To be the recipient of this award two years in a row is not only an honour but also reflects our commitment and consistency through these difficult times". The FBA Awards were created to celebrate the unique achievements of family businesses and their contribution to the economy and culture of Australia.

NSW FBA Chairman, Terry Rowney, says this is the first time a NSW/ACT award has been consecutively given to the same family business but it was a testament to the outstanding attributes of Westend Estate as a third generation family business which continues to innovate and thrive. Rowney says: "Westend's Director Bill Calabria continues to drive this business and keep the family passionate about their work. He is not only a role model for the next generation of family members but gives back tirelessly to the very same community which has helped to support the business."

The Judges noted the following outstanding aspects of the Westend Estate application;

- The company's board which comprises all non-family members except for the Managing Director, ensuring the business can benefit from arbitrary expertise and assist in steering the company to realise its business objectives.
- The company gives significantly to the community throughout the year by organising large scale charity projects which result in thousands of dollars being donated to the support of terminally ill children. These activities recently culminated in Bill Calabria this year being announced as the winner of the 2010 Griffith Citizen of the Year.

Bill has also been nominated for the 'Jason Lee' award. This award is for an individual who has demonstrated entrepreneurship and a strong commitment to excellence and family business practices, a 'can-do' attitude and a capacity for hard work. The winner of this award will be announced at the National Family Business Awards.

The Calabria family migrated from Italy to Australia in 1927 in search of a better life for their large family. In 1945 the family established Westend Estate, a business producing wine for the local European migrants in Griffith. The family business struggled through difficult times in the 1980s but re-emerged in the premium wine market in the 1990s when a growth in Australian wines brought renewed prosperity to the region.

Since it all began in 1945, the accolades have grown, to include; 2005 NSW Wine of the Year (Richland Shiraz), Finalist of the 'Jimmy Watson Memorial Trophy' (2005, 2006 & 2007), Home of the most successful Durif (awarded over 18 trophies since its inception in 2001), 'NSW Business Chambers - 2009 Exporter of the Year', '2009 White Wine of the Year' (Richland Sauvignon Blanc) and NSW 'Sweet Wine of the Year 2008' (3 Bridges Golden Mist Botrytis).

Westend Estate will now go on to compete in the Third Generation Award category at the National Family Business of the Year Awards to be held in Queensland in September.

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