



Contact: Kelsey Richards, Duo PR  
Tel. (206) 445-1498  
Email: kelsey@duopr.com

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## Walla Walla's Marcus Whitman Hotel Awarded "2015 Hotel of the Year" by Washington State Wine Commission

**WALLA WALLA, WA.** – Feb. 4, 2015 – [The Marcus Whitman Hotel](#) was named by the Washington State Wine Commission as "2015 Hotel of the Year" at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Washington State Wine Awards on Jan. 26. In addition, the hotel's [Marc Restaurant](#) was recognized by the Commission for the second year in a row, and presented with a 2015 Grand Award.

The prestigious annual awards recognize and honor restaurants, retailers, tourism professionals and distributors who raise the profile of Washington State wine regionally and nationally. This year's winners were selected from a record breaking 130 nominations, and were chosen for their impressive menus, innovative educational programs, marketing efforts and their unwavering commitment to excellent service.

The Marcus Whitman Hotel's longtime Assistant General Manager, Dan Leeper, was present at the Seattle ceremony to accept both awards on behalf of The Marcus Whitman's exceptional hospitality and culinary teams. The Washington State Hotel of the Year Award is one of the most prestigious awards given at the ceremony and aims to recognize industry leaders who show the strongest support for Washington State wine. This marks the first Washington State Wine Commission 'Hotel of the Year' award for The Marcus Whitman Hotel.

The second Marcus Whitman award of the evening, the Washington State Wine Grand Award was given to the Marc Restaurant. The award commends individuals and organizations that place Washington State wines on their menus and wine lists and provides ongoing promotion. This is the first Grand Award for The Marc, and the restaurant was previously named as 'Restaurant of the Year' in 2014.

"It's an honor to be recognized alongside so many great industry leaders and to take home this year's top honors at the Washington State Wine Awards," said Kyle Mussman, General Manager and Owner of The Marcus Whitman Hotel and Conference Center. "Located in one of the world's most distinguished wine regions we are fortunate and proud to showcase, promote and pour the best wines from our region and state."

Located in the heart of Washington's beautiful wine country, the legendary Marcus Whitman Hotel offers guests and locals alike a warm and rich atmosphere with 127 luxurious rooms and suites, seven on-site tasting rooms featuring Washington wineries and award-winning dining at [The Marc Restaurant](#) and [The Vineyard Lounge](#). The Marc Restaurant, under the guidance of sommelier and restaurant

manager Dan McCaffrey, has one of the largest selections of regional wines in the area, and the diverse wine list includes more than 235 wine labels, focusing predominately on vineyards and producers locally and throughout the state.

“The Walla Walla valley provides an abundance of fresh ingredients and world-class wines, allowing us to create unique flavors and expertly paired wine suggestions,” said McCaffrey. “Our goal is to provide our guests with a memorable dining experience they won’t find anywhere else.”

Guests looking to plan a meeting, event, wedding, or a fun weekend getaway are invited to travel to Walla Walla for an exclusive stay in the historic hotel where they can enjoy luxury accommodations, wine tastings and dine at the award winning restaurant. To make a reservation at The Marc Restaurant or for more information on special room rates and packages, call (509) 525-2200 or visit [www.marcuswhitmanhotel.com](http://www.marcuswhitmanhotel.com).

#### **About The Marcus Whitman Hotel & Conference Center**

Built in 1928 through a community labor of love, The Marcus Whitman Hotel & Conference Center is a downtown Walla Walla landmark where history and luxury intertwine. The property was fully renovated in 2001 and restored to its original grandeur, while adding modern updates to provide a truly luxurious experience for today’s traveler. The full grounds include a 127-room hotel with luxury suites, a state-of-the-art conference center featuring grand renaissance ballrooms, seven on-site wine tasting rooms, and the award-winning The Marc Restaurant and The Vineyard Lounge. Thousands of overnight guests, diners, wine lovers, conference goers, business travelers and pleasure seekers enjoy the Marcus Whitman’s exceptional guest service each year, where they find “ladies and gentlemen serving ladies and gentlemen” to the backdrop of modern splendor. [www.marcuswhitman.com](http://www.marcuswhitman.com)

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