FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AAAV Celebrates 25 Years of Opening Doors in Wine

April 9–11, 2027 gathering in Healdsburg will celebrate Black wine excellence and introduce the planned AAAV Foundation



INTRODUCING THE AAAV FOUNDATION

Honoring Our Past. Cultivating Our Future.

Planned launch: April 2027
Expanding support for scholarships, education, mentorship, and wine entrepreneurship.

HEALDSBURG, Calif. — The Association of African American Vintners (AAAV) is planning its 25th Anniversary Celebration Weekend for April 9–11, 2027, in Healdsburg, Sonoma County, California, with Overshine Wine Co. serving as host. The three-day gathering will bring together vintners, wine lovers, industry leaders and supporters to celebrate a quarter century of expanding opportunity in wine and help advance the next generation of wine professionals.

Under the theme “Honoring Our Past. Cultivating Our Future.,” the anniversary weekend will pair member wines, culinary experiences and music with opportunities to connect directly with the people behind the labels. The celebration will also introduce the planned AAAV Foundation, a companion charitable organization intended to expand support for scholarships, education, mentorship and wine entrepreneurship.

Founded in 2002, AAAV has built a national community supporting Black vintners and wine industry professionals through education, advocacy and connection. Its work includes wine education scholarships and the AAAV Wine Entrepreneur Grant, which supports the growth of Black-owned member wine businesses. The anniversary recognizes the people who opened doors and invites a broader community to help create lasting opportunities in the industry.

THE ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

Friday, April 9 — Welcome Reception. An opening gathering with member wines and bites, bringing members, partners and early arrivals together to reconnect and preview the weekend auction.

Saturday, April 10 — The Day Party Gala. An open-air celebration with music, member wine stations and a brief anniversary toast. A professional pouring team is planned so member winemakers can join guests for conversation throughout the event.

Saturday, April 10 — An Evening with the Board. A separately ticketed, intimate six-course wine pairing dinner hosted by AAAV board members, featuring wines from their own labels and the stories behind them.

Sunday, April 11 — The R&B Brunch. A celebratory close featuring R&B music, brunch, member wines and a spotlight on the impact of wine education scholarships.

A mobile auction is planned to run throughout the weekend, with opportunities for guests and partners to support AAAV's education and opportunity-building efforts. Corporate sponsorships, auction donations, in-kind contributions and media partnerships are also being sought.

The planned AAAV Foundation will complement the association's ongoing membership, advocacy and industry work by focusing on education and related charitable programs. The anniversary weekend is intended to connect AAAV's history with the resources and relationships needed to support its next chapter.

For ticket information, current event updates, membership and ways to support the anniversary, visit aaavintners.org. For sponsorship, partnership or media inquiries, contact info2@aaavintners.org. Final event times, individual experience locations and additional program details will be announced as confirmed.

AAAV Board of Directors

AAAV is led by President Phil Long, Longevity Wines; Vice President Chrishon Lampley, Love Cork Screw; Secretary Chris Christensen, Bodkin Wines; Treasurer Lou Garcia, Stover Oaks Winery; and Board Member Robin McBride, McBride Sisters Collection.

About the Association of African American Vintners

Founded in 2002, the Association of African American Vintners is a nonprofit trade association that advances inclusion in the wine industry through education, advocacy and community. AAAV supports Black vintners and wine professionals while welcoming wine brands, industry colleagues and supporters who share its commitment to expanding access and opportunity. Learn more at aaavintners.org.

Media & Partnership Contact

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