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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Epicurean Wines Announces New Leadership Following the Death of Benjamin Hammerschlag**

**SEATTLE, March 27, 2018** – Epicurean Wines is pleased to announce that the company will carry on following the death of its founder Benjamin Hammerschlag in November 2017. In accordance with Hammerschlag’s wish that the company persevere, his family retains majority ownership and will continue to provide its financial backing. Day-to-day operations will remain under long time Epicurean Wines employee, Cindy Oswald, who has been named president of the reorganized company. Oswald has retained Brian Klassen as National Sales Manager. Klassen approaches this position with a wealth of experience in Australian Wine. He began his career running a winery in Australia and has spent the last 20 years representing Australian portfolios throughout the U.S. market.

For long time Epicurean Wines producers such as Kaesler and Cimicky, this news is welcome. “The United States is an important market for us and Epicurean has been Australia’s most dedicated representative there. We are heartened to see the company move forward,” commented Reid Bosward, head winemaker at Kaesler. “After years of trust placed in Benjamin Hammerschlag,” he added, “I place that same faith in Cindy Oswald, who has shown nothing but fierce dedication to the success of our brands.”

When asked what Aussie wine enthusiasts can expect from this new chapter, Oswald emphasized her own commitment to the company’s future, adding, “Epicurean Wines is here to stay.” Some exciting additions are coming to the portfolio and she’ll be rolling them out this spring. “This is a moment of real growth for Australian wine and spirits: the tried and true brands are going strong, but we are also seeing some fabulous innovation in growing techniques, grape varietals and the diversification of productions,” said Oswald. Epicurean has historically been the lead American importer of high quality, boutique Australian wines. Going forward Epicurean will work together with its wine makers, brokers and distributors to write the next chapter.

### **About Epicurean Wines**

Epicurean Wines was started in 2000 with the import of several boutique wineries from the Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale. Since then, Epicurean has garnered a reputation as one of the premier importers of Australian Wine. With a distribution network that spans 46 states, Epicurean Wines strives to be the most cutting-edge Australian importer in the U.S. In 2017 Epicurean Wines added Applewood Gin, the company’s first spirit. 2018 saw the further addition of a Tasmanian Whisky from Hellyer’s Road Distillery in Tasmania. Currently, Epicurean Wines represents 13 Australian producers and is headquartered in Seattle, Washington.

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