

PRESS RELEASE IMMEDIATE

The GRAN ORDEN de CABALLEROS del VINO ANNOUNCE THREE NEW CABALLEROS



GRAN ORDEN
DE CABALLEROS DEL VINO

Three new Caballeros have been invested into the *Gran Orden de Caballeros del Vino*: **Richard Bigg**, Managing Director, Camino Group, (*middle image*) **Manuel Muga**, Executive Vice-president of Bodegas Muga (*on right above*) and **Norrel Robertson MW**, winemaker (*on left above*). All recognised for the outstanding contribution to Spanish wine promotion in the Spain and the UK

July 2020, London –. Despite the unprecedented circumstances and the postponement of the spectacular Caballeros annual dinner every March, the decision has been taken to announce the investiture of three well-known members of the Spanish and British wines trade in to the Gran Orden.

Renowned for unstinting work and commitment to Spanish wine promotion in the UK, these three industry professionals are extremely worthy candidates to join this auspicious group. They are:

Richard Bigg, Managing Director, Camino Group who said, upon his investiture, that he is “absolutely delighted to have had the honour of being welcomed into the Gran Orden de Caballeros del Vino. I’ve been thrilled to discover ever more about Spanish wines for a long time, and it feels wonderful to be a part of such a prestigious group.”

Manuel Muga, Executive Vice-president of Bodegas Muga, commented that it is “a great honour for me, as a representative of the Muga family, to receive this recognition. It’s really a



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CABALLEROS DEL VINO

pity that the present situation with Covid has, for the moment, prevented us from celebrating an event which gives so much recognition and prestige to Spanish wines'

Norrel Robertson MW, winemaker and founder of 'El Escocés Volante', said, " It is a great honour to be invited join such an illustrious group of professionals who have given so much to Spanish wine. I have had the privilege of bringing up a family and setting up business in Spain and hope that together we can keep on communicating all that is great about Spanish wine, culture and lifestyle."

Unfortunately the three new Caballeros have not been able to meet with fellow Caballeros yet to celebrate the occasion but they will enjoy their moment of glory at the next Investiture Dinner in 2021.

Commenting on the investiture, Sarah Jane Evans MW, Chair of the GOCV said, "The members of the Gran Orden de Caballeros del Vino are elected for their outstanding achievement working with quality wines from Spain. This year we are delighted to welcome 3 really exceptional Caballeros: Richard Bigg, who is a dynamic ambassador for Spanish wine in the On Trade in the UK; Manuel 'Manu' Muga, who, working with his generation, has transformed his family business into an internationally recognised symbol of fine Rioja; and Norrel Robertson MW, an award-winning maker of his wines, but also a highly-regarded consultant winemaker across Spain."

Maria Peña, CEO of ICEX in Spain and Chancellor of the GOCV, said, "I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations and a warm welcome to the three new members of the Gran Orden. Their invaluable contributions will undoubtedly continue the Gran Orden's work of raising the prestige of Spanish wines in the UK. I wish to express my gratitude to the Gran Orden for your continuous effort and dedication in promoting the excellence of our wines."

"For the first time since the GOCV was founded in 1984, we have had to delay our investiture ceremony, in light of the official guidelines for large gatherings due to COVID-19. However, we look forward to marking the occasion and celebrating together in 2021".

-ENDS-

Find out more about the GOCV at <https://gocv.uk/>
and follow us twitter @WineCaballeros #winecaballeros



GRAN ORDEN DE CABALLEROS DEL VINO

Notes to editors

ABOUT THE NEW CABALLEROS



Richard Bigg

Richard Bigg started working life as a commodity broker in the City, and graduated to the hospitality sector. His first bar won Time Out Bar of the Year in 1997, fast forward 10 years and he opened Camino (the first of a series) in Kings Cross: 'the idea was to move away from other businesses and concentrate on combining my love of bars and restaurants with my love of Spain'. In 2008 it won Observer Food Monthly Best Bar in Britain. In 2010 he launched Bar Pepito (Britain's first dedicated Sherry bar) and in 2014 he won Best Spanish Wine List UK from the Imbibe Louis Roederer Awards.



Manuel Muga

Manuel Muga is the current Executive Vice-president of Bodegas Muga. He has a degree in Economics and Business Sciences from the University of the Basque Country.

After completing his academic training, Manuel moved to France where he worked in La Mondiale, a major international insurance company and, after returning to Spain, he continued his professional career in the financial sector, working in MAPFRE another prestigious company of Spanish origin. Diageo, one of the world's largest producers of spirits and beers was the last company he worked for until in 1994, as a member of the family's third generation, he joined Bodegas Muga.



Norrel Robertson MW

Norrel Robertson MW was born and raised in Scotland, Norrel graduated from Aberdeen University and has been in the wine business since 1993.

After posts in sales, buying and product development he worked in Europe and the New World learning how to make wine from the mid to late 1990s. He became an MW in 2000 winning the Mondavi Award and then studied the Postgraduate Diploma in Viticulture and Oenology at Lincoln University, New Zealand, passing with Distinction. In 2003 he moved to Spain as a group winemaker for International Wine Services.

Running winemaking projects across Spain, he fell in love with the old vineyards of Aragón, many of which he has bought and since saved from extinction as he set up the company 'El Escocés Volante'. He and his

family currently own 25 hectares of primarily old vine Garnacha in the Sistema Ibérico, as well as making wines and consulting across other regions of Spain.



GRAN ORDEN DE CABALLEROS DEL VINO

About the GOCV

The **Gran Orden de Caballeros del Vino (GOCV)** was established in 1985 by [Wines from Spain](#) to recognise and reward outstanding achievement in the education, advancement and business of quality wines from Spain in the United Kingdom.

Since then, the Order has invited [82 members](#) of the wine trade to join, in recognition of their unique contributions. The new members are inaugurated at the annual investiture dinner in central London. Among their number are winemakers, winery owners, importers, retailers, restaurateurs, educators, journalists and broadcasters. Led by a small team of committee members, the GOCV provides an unrivalled network for Spanish wines in the UK.

Translated literally, each member is officially 'a knight of the great order of wine' and once accepted into the GOCV members continue their support of wines from Spain by promoting the work and events of the whole Spanish wine community across the UK, in Spain and around the world.