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Indiana Winemaker is Entrepreneur of the Year Finalist

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. - For the first time, a winery has been nominated as a finalist in the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award. Angee Walberry, owner and winemaker of Gaia Wines in Indianapolis, Ind. has been selected as a finalist for this prestigious award. Gaia Wines, is one of the only female owned wineries in the nation.

The year 2000 is the first year for the Food and Beverage Manufacturing and Distribution category. The award is based on nominations sent to Ernst and Young, which are reviewed by a panelist of judges. This year 60 to 70 nominations were received from 46 cities around the United States. Ernst and Young is in their 13th year of honoring entrepreneurs like Ms. Walberry. The Entrepreneur of the Year Award allows the general public to be aware of the beneficial effects that entrepreneurs have on society. Angee Walberry, will be recognized at a Banquet in Indianapolis this June for her accomplishments.

Gaia Wines is just one example of how the Indiana wine industry has flourished in recent years. Indiana is currently home to 20 wineries and will welcome at least three new wineries in 2000. Indiana with the assistance of the Indiana Wine Grape Council continues to establish a successful wine grape industry through research and marketing development. Ms. Walberry is an indication of where the Indiana wine industry is headed.

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