



Press release,
June 8th, 2018

French-American Business Awards 5th edition: Winners announced



The French-American Chamber of Commerce of San Francisco is honored to announce the winners of the 5th edition of the French-American Business Awards (FABA). The event is held every year in San Francisco to reward the best French-American companies and personalities out of 50 nominees among 11 categories. The FABA gathered over 300 attendees for an unforgettable dinner celebration.

Organized by the French-American Chamber of Commerce of San Francisco, the [FABA](#) is the leading event dedicated to the French-American business community, rewarding entrepreneurs and executives' involvement in the business and the community.

'This 5th Edition of the annual French-American Business Awards has been another exciting occasion to showcase the diversity of our French Ecosystem thanks to new categories. We are proud to highlight so many new French-American success stories every year: congratulations to all the laureates!' Eve Chaurand, President of the FACCSF.

The 11 categories - French-American Business Awards 5th edition:

- Woman Role Model
- Social Impact
- Agribusiness
- Food Business
- High Tech over \$30 million in revenue or funding
- High Tech under \$30 million in revenue or funding
- Trends of 2018: Leaders in Smart Mobility
- Giving Back Award
- Startup of the Year
- US Investment in France
- Wine

Laureates 2018

French-American Business Awards 5th Edition

Category **Woman Role Model**

GOLD AWARD : Fidji Simo

Facebook – VP of Product



[Fidji Simo](#) is the Vice-President in charge of Video, Games and Advertising in News Feed at Facebook. She manages a team of over 600 product managers and engineers who build new experiences for people to create and consume videos, play games, and interact with ads in News Feed.

Fidji has been recognized by Fortune and was #21 on their “40 under 40” annual ranking of most influential young people in business. She was also #2 on Fast Company’s 2017 list of Most Creative People in Business. She was ranked 10th most influential French person in the world by Vanity Fair.

[Odile Disch-Bhadkamkar](#) is a higher-education finance executive and board member proficient in financial strategy, investment management, capital markets and treasury management. She is emerita managing director and chief financial officer, Stanford Management Co. where she oversaw investment operations, reporting, compliance, information technology and took part in the investment process for the endowment. In addition, she served on the investment committee for the university’s retirement plans. She currently serves as trustee for Grinnell College and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, is a member of Stanford’s department of athletics’ advisory board, and the finance committee of the Foothill-De Anza community college.

SPECIAL DISTINCTION
Odile Disch-Bhadkamkar
Grinnell College – Trustee



Category **Social Impact**

GOLD AWARD

Alter Eco

Recognized as a top certified Benefit Corporation and one of the first registered Public Benefit Corporations, [Alter Eco](#) is dedicated to full-circle sustainability throughout its operations and supply chain through four pillars: sourcing using Fair Trade principles, producing only organic and non-GMO foods, creating minimal waste by working towards 100 percent compostable packaging, and in-setting carbon emissions by means of large-scale reforestation programs in its cooperatives.

SPECIAL DISTINCTION

Code For Fun

[Code For Fun](#) is a non-profit organization, based in Fremont, committed to exposing all students to computer science at an early age. We offer after school programs, camps, in school instruction and teachers training, throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. As a leader in computer science education for young learners, our programs are designed for all students, bridging gender and racial gaps, and encouraging them to consider academic and career paths in the engineering field. Code for fun's vision is that all students in grades K-12 have access to computer science education.

Category **Food Business**

GOLD AWARD

La Toque

Michelin-starred [La Toque](#) is led by Executive Chef Ken Frank and located at The Westin Verasa Napa. Chef Ken Frank's menu of contemporary French cuisine is created from the region's rich bounty of seasonal, fresh foods sourced from a network of local farmers and purveyors. His presentations exhibit clean flavor profiles designed to complement the extensive wine selection, as La Toque is one of 84 restaurants worldwide with a Wine Spectator Grand Award.

SPECIAL DISTINCTION

La Tourangelle, Inc.

[La Tourangelle](#) offers high quality, delicious artisan oils that inspire people to cook, create and unleash their inner chef. Steeped in the oil-making tradition of the Loire Valley, La Tourangelle uses artisan French techniques while sourcing locally to craft small batch, minimally processed, flavor-rich oils that are rich in nutrition and perfected in taste. With a broad range of flavors from Walnut, Avocado, Grapeseed and Sesame to an infused line of Pesto, Garlic and Basil, La Tourangelle's portfolio of artisan oils and unique flavors provide the canvas to turn any kitchen into an art studio.

Category **Agribusiness**

GOLD AWARD

Oeneo

[Oeneo](#) Group is a major wine industry player with high-end and innovative brands. Present around the world, the Group covers each stage in the winemaking process through two core and complementary divisions: Closures, which manufactures and sells cork closures, including high value-added technological closures through its Diam range and traditional closures through its Piedade range. Winemaking, which provides high-end solutions in winemaking and spirits for leading market players with Seguin Moreau and develops innovative solutions for the wine industry with Vivelys (R&D, consulting, systems). Oeneo prides itself in offering solutions in the production, maturing, preservation and enhancement of wines or spirits that faithfully convey all of the emotion and passion of each winegrower and improve their performance.

SPECIAL DISTINCTION

Laffort USA, Inc.

[Laffort](#) is a fourth-generation family-owned winemaking product supplier, based in Bordeaux, France since 1895, and distributed in over 60 countries worldwide. With a history in enology dating back to Pasteur's seminal works, the Laffort group is proud to dedicate one of the largest budgets in the wine industry to Research and Development. Because of these efforts, the company holds many patents and regularly launches innovative winemaking products for the wine industry. Laffort holds HACCP and ISO certifications.

Category **High Tech** over **\$30 Million in revenue or funding**

GOLD AWARD

Algolia

[Algolia](#) is the leading hosted Search & Discovery solution for websites and mobile apps -- helping the most innovative companies across e-commerce, media and SaaS industries create powerful, relevant and scalable discovery experiences for their users. Algolia's hosted platform reduces the complexities of building and scaling a fast, relevant digital experience and helps teams accelerate development time. 5,000 companies like Under Armour, Twitch, Periscope, Medium and Stripe rely on Algolia to manage 40+ billion search queries a month.

Founded in 2012, Algolia is backed by \$74M in funding from Accel Partners, Alven Capital, Point Nine Capital and Storm Ventures. The team is headquartered in San Francisco with offices in Paris, London, New York, and Atlanta. To learn more, visit www.algolia.com.

SPECIAL DISTINCTION

Front

[Front](#) is the first shared inbox for teams that unifies your email, customer communication channels, and apps in one platform. Teams collaborate efficiently and have more context and visibility into every conversation, to work faster and better together in Front. Today, over 3,000 businesses rely on Front for work communications. Founded in 2013 by Mathilde Collin and Laurent Perrin, Front has raised \$79 million in venture funding and has 80+ employees in its San Francisco and Paris offices.

Category High Tech under \$30 Million in revenue or funding

GOLD AWARD

Dawex

[Dawex](#) is the global data marketplace where organizations meet, buy and sell data, directly, securely and in full compliance with rules and regulations. Acting as a trusted third-party, we do not buy or sell data: parties (buyers, sellers) keep full control over their data transactions and conclude licensing deals in direct. Our goal is to facilitate cross border and cross sector data flow and make data exchange accessible and secure for all economic stakeholders.

SPECIAL DISTINCTION

Hardware Club

[Hardware Club](#) is the first exclusive club for hardware startups. We select the most promising startups worldwide and help them scale globally by providing support on key hardware issues like manufacturing and distribution. We also invest at seed stage in some of our members. Our members benefit from free access to strategic partnerships with top-tier manufacturers, distributors and service providers, events worldwide and an online platform to connect with a community of 150+ hardware founders.

Category **Leaders in Smart Mobility**

GOLD AWARD : Luc Vincent

Lyft – VP of Engineering



[Luc Vincent](#) is Lyft's VP of Engineering for Self-Driving, where he leads the Level 5 Engineering Center and Lyft's self-driving efforts. Prior to Lyft, Luc spent 12 years at Google, most recently as Senior Director of Engineering, leading the Geo group and developing Street View. Before Google, Luc was Chief Scientist at LizardTech and spent time at Xerox. He holds almost 100 issued patents and over 60 publications. Luc has earned multiple graduate degrees and was a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard.

SPECIAL DISTINCTION

Gilbert Passin

VP Manufacturing – Tesla Motors

[Gilbert](#) brings 23 years of international automotive experience to Tesla. He has led some of the most high-profile divisions at Toyota, Volvo, Mack and Renault across North America and Europe. Prior joining Tesla, Gilbert served as general manager of production engineering West Coast for Toyota North America and Chief Production Engineer for the future Corolla in North America. Prior to Toyota West Coast, Gilbert was vice president of manufacturing at the award-winning TMMC Toyota plant of Cambridge, Ontario.



Category **Startup of the Year**

JURY'S CHOICE AWARD

InkSpace Imaging

[InkSpace Imaging](#) makes comfortable, patient customized Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) coils that increase patient comfort and exam performance. We have developed a radically new way of manufacturing coils using printed electronics, which results in coils as light and flexible as a blanket that always fit the patient's anatomy. Our coils improve image quality, the speed and success rate of MRI exams, thus lowering the overall cost of exams while improving the patient's experience.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

Allure Systems

[Allure Systems](#) combines advanced virtualization and computer vision technologies to create stunning on-figure images for fashion retailers. Each final image is a composite of a virtualized model and a garment photograph, and is indistinguishable from a single, traditionally-shot image. Any of your models can appear to be wearing any of your clothes, but no longer need to be physically present at photo shoots. In fact, only stylists and garments are required to create new product images in an Allure solution.

Category **US Investment in France**

GOLD AWARD

Zendesk

[Zendesk's](#) powerful and flexible customer service and engagement platform scales to meet the needs of any business, from startups and small businesses to growth companies and enterprises. Zendesk serves businesses across multiple industries, with more than 100,000 paid customer accounts offering service and support in more than 30 languages. Headquartered in San Francisco, Zendesk operates worldwide with 15 offices in North America, Europe, Asia, Australia, and South America.

SPECIAL DISTINCTION

Symphony

[Symphony](#) is the cloud-based messaging and collaboration platform that connects markets, organizations and individuals, securely. Powered by an open and growing app ecosystem, and protected with customer-owned encryption keys, Symphony's communication platform increases workflow productivity while facilitating global regulatory compliance. Already the platform of choice for the financial services industry, Symphony eliminates

inefficient workflows to boost productivity in information-driven businesses. Founded in October 2014 and headquartered in Palo Alto, CA, the company has offices in New York, Hong Kong, Singapore, Stockholm, Tokyo and London.

Category **Wine**

GOLD AWARD

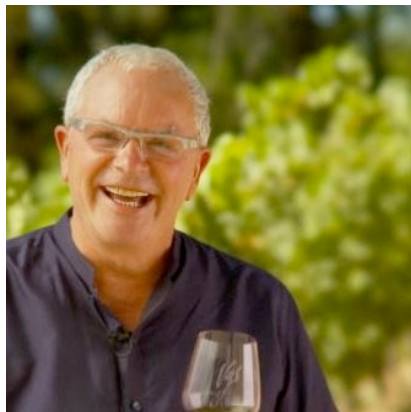
Atlas Wine Co.

[Atlas Wines Co.](#) is a Napa, CA-based producer of world-class wines. Our portfolio has grown to contain two unique brands: Oro Bello and Omen. These premiere wines are crafted to be consistent, approachable and ready for immediate enjoyment.

Category **Giving Back Award**

Jean-Noël Fourmeaux

This year, [Jean-Noel Fourmeaux](#) was chosen by the Advisory Board to receive the award due to his impressive involvement and support to our community, specifically during and in the aftermath of the tremendous wildfires of October 2017 in the Wine country.



Jean-Noel Fourmeaux is a 35 years veteran of the wine industry in Napa Valley, yet, his winery, VGS Chateau Potelle, is known only by those who search for wines that have dimension, subtlety and definitive character. Their assertiveness is all in the nuances and their successive layers, not in the overripeness of fruit. “To make “main stream” wines has never been my calling” proclaims Fourmeaux..

Sent to the Napa Valley by the French government in 1980 “to spy” for 6 months, this son of Bordeaux sent a telegram home “Looks good, I stay”. Fourmeaux was seduced by the exuberance and generosity of the Napa Valley fruit. Additionally, in 1980 a culinary revolution led by the young American chefs where ingredients were respected and enhanced, convinced Fourmeaux the wines style was going to change over time.

The French-American Chamber of Commerce thanks:

Its platinum sponsors



In partnership with



Its Gold sponsors:



Its silver sponsors



About the FACCSF :

The French-American Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit, non-governmental and member-driven organization. Its mission is to foster the French-American business community and to support companies settle and develop in Northern California.

Our organization focuses on providing the highest level of services to its 15,000 members, through its 3 pillars: Members, Events and Trade Services. The FACCSF is proud to be supported by 350 sustaining members. The FACCSF organizes over 100 events/year, and provides a full range of services: recruitment, training and marketing tools. It is the the most efficient networking platform for French-American businesses in the Bay Area.

Learn more at www.faccsf.com

About our partner:

Leaders League is a media and rating agency for top executives at the international level.

We connect senior business leaders to a dynamic network of business information and people sharing a common passion : excellence in leadership and management.

Leaders League delivers up-to-date news, in-depth analysis and business insights through a range of formats, from Décideurs Magazine, market intelligence reports, top company rankings and directories to professional events and digital products.

Media contact:

[Jules Caron](#) – FACCSF / Communications Coordinator