

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOLAINI NAMED WINNER OF WINE.COM'S 2026 BRACKET CHALLENGE

Tuscan estate emerged from a field of 64 producers to take the title

New York, NY – April 10 2026 — Banville Wine Merchants is proud to announce that Tolaini has been named the winner of Wine.com's 2026 Bracket Challenge, emerging as the champion after three weeks of voting, rating, and shopping. Tolaini advanced through the competition from an original field of 64 producers, ultimately taking the title after entering the semifinal round as the only producer from Italy. Along the way, Tolaini stood among a distinguished group of finalists that included Ridge, Susana Balbo, Laurent-Perrier, Maison Brotte, Heir Apparent, Purple Hands, and La Rioja Alta, before going on to secure the championship on Monday, April 6th.

"We are deeply pleased and grateful to see Tolaini recognized as the winner of Wine.com's 2026 Bracket Challenge," said Lia Tolaini-Banville, owner of Banville Wine Merchants and proprietor of Tolaini. "To have advanced from a field of sixty-four producers and to have represented Italy through the final rounds makes this achievement especially meaningful for our family and our team. We are thankful to everyone who voted, supported, shopped, and followed along. This result is a wonderful affirmation of the work behind Tolaini and the continued enthusiasm for our wines."

Founded by Pier Luigi Tolaini, Tolaini was born from a singular vision: to build one of Italy's exceptional wine estates. Established in 1998 in Castelnuovo Berardenga, the southernmost commune of Chianti Classico, the winery combines tradition, modern precision, and a tireless focus on fruit quality to produce wines that express the power, structure, and elegance of this distinct Tuscan terroir. Lia Tolaini-Banville has played a central role in that story. She began her career in 1997, opening a retail wine shop in Winnipeg, Canada, and in 2000 assisted her father in establishing Tolaini and today owns and operates the estate.

For more information or interview opportunities, please contact:

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About Banville Wine Merchants

Banville Wine Merchants, headquartered in New York, is a premier importer and distributor of fine wines and spirits. With a dedication to offering high-quality, authentic selections, Banville has established itself as a trusted partner for winemakers and customers alike. The company prides itself on building strong relationships within the industry and providing exceptional service and expertise.