



## THE WINE GUILD

OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

### **Recommendation Letter for the F.I.C.B. Diploma of Honour**

**Nominee: Mr. Bob Lindo**

**Submitted by: Tal Sunderland-Cohen, Chairman, and Julia Trustram Eve, Director - The Wine Guild of the United Kingdom**

**Thursday, 24 July 2025**

To the Board of Administration of the F.I.C.B.,

It is with great pride and conviction that I submit the nomination of Mr Bob Lindo for the prestigious Diploma of Honour of the Fédération Internationale des Confréries Bachiques (F.I.C.B.). Mr Lindo's pioneering achievements, long-standing commitment, and exceptional contributions to English viticulture and wine culture exemplify the highest ideals enshrined in the F.I.C.B.'s mission and values.

A former Royal Air Force pilot, Bob Lindo is the founder of **Camel Valley**, Cornwall's first commercial vineyard, established in 1989. What began as a modest venture has since evolved—under Bob's visionary leadership—into one of the most acclaimed and internationally respected English wine producers. Camel Valley has not only earned national and international awards for excellence but also played a formative role in reshaping perceptions of English wine around the globe. This tradition and reputation for excellence has been further enhanced by his son, Sam, winner of multiple accolades for his winemaking. Bob remains proactively involved in Camel Valley alongside his wife and co-founder, Annie.

Among the many accolades received by Camel Valley under Bob's guidance are:

- **A Gold Medal and Trophy at the International Wine Challenge** – the first ever for an English wine.
- Consistent international recognition, including medals at **Decanter World Wine Awards**, **IWSC**, and other major global competitions, including 'Best sparkling rosé in the world' at Bollicine Del Mondo and the 2017 Cornwall Sustainability Trophy
- In 2010, **Camel Valley's Pinot Noir Rosé Brut was served at a Buckingham Palace state banquet** hosted by HM Queen Elizabeth II for President Obama, a landmark moment for the English wine industry.
- A Royal Warrant awarded to Camel Valley in recognition of provision of their wines to the Royal Household – the first, and still only, English wine producer to carry this Appointment. This entitles Camel Valley to display the Royal Coat of Arms of HM The King and HM The Queen
- Several tourism awards including Bob himself winning an award for outstanding services to tourism in Cornwall,
- Championing sustainability with Camel Valley a founder member of the UK industry's scheme, Sustainable Wines of Great Britain

Beyond awards, Bob Lindo has been a tireless ambassador for English wine both in the UK and abroad. He has:

- Supported and mentored **numerous new English winegrowers**, sharing his knowledge and experience generously.
- Helped pave the way for the development of the **PDO (Protected Designation of Origin) in the UK**— Camel Valley was the first to receive individual PDO status for one of their vineyards (PDO Darnibole for production of Bacchus still wine). Until then, the only PDO regions in the UK were England and Wales. .
- Represented English wine at numerous **international wine fairs and forums** over the years, contributing to the growth of a sector once considered marginal and now hailed as world-class.

Additionally, Bob Lindo:

- Was one of the instigators of **English Wine Week**, now one of the industry's most successful marketing campaigns
- Was instrumental in inviting the then Duchess of Cornwall (now HM Queen Camilla) to become President of the national body, United Kingdom Vineyards Association (now Wines of Great Britain)

In recognition of his contributions, Bob Lindo has also:

- Served as Chair of the then national industry association for English and Welsh wine, **United Kingdom Vineyards Association**,
- Served as a proactive and one of the earliest members of **English Wine Producers** – the marketing body that spearheaded national and international promotion of UK wines
- Frequently featured in British and international media as a voice of authority and authenticity in English winemaking.

Bob has remained committed to the **spirit of community and fraternity** that defines the wine world at its best. He has participated in events and tastings across Europe and hosted many delegations at Camel Valley, creating bridges of understanding and camaraderie. While not yet formally inducted into multiple wine brotherhoods, his contributions are fully aligned with the values of the F.I.C.B.—dedication to excellence, international goodwill, and the cultural significance of wine.

Bob's legacy is not merely that of a successful winemaker; it is that of a trailblazer who opened new paths, raised collective aspirations, and tangibly contributed to the reputation of an entire nation's wine industry. His work has inspired a new generation of winegrowers, not least securing the next generation at Camel Valley, where his son Sam is a multi-award-winning winemaker.

I believe Mr Bob Lindo wholly embodies the spirit of the F.I.C.B. Diploma of Honour, as described in your criteria:

- His **international achievements in wine production and promotion** are indisputable.
- He has made a **significant and lasting contribution to the renown of wine culture**, both within and outside of the UK.
- He has supported the **values and spirit of wine brotherhoods**, fostering fellowship, excellence and cultural celebration.

In recognition of his outstanding service and global influence, I respectfully urge the F.I.C.B. to bestow upon Mr Lindo this well-deserved honour.

With highest consideration and warm regards,

**Tal Sunderland-Cohen**

Chairman

The Wine Guild of the United Kingdom