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Prestigious Zagat guide honors Fiction @ J. Bookwalter As one of the nation's best winery restaurants

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RICHLAND, Wash. (Oct. 17, 2017) – Fiction @ J. Bookwalter, the on-site restaurant at the J. Bookwalter Winery here, has been selected as one of the nine best winery restaurants in the United States by the editors from the prestigious Zagat restaurant guide.

Fiction @ J. Bookwalter is the only winery restaurant in Washington State to be honored by Zagat editors. The list includes wineries from California, New York, Texas, Virginia and Oregon.

This is the third time in past two years that Fiction @ J. Bookwalter has been recognized for excellence by national hospitality, wine and travel media. Last February, *FOOD & WINE* magazine selected Fiction @ J. Bookwalter as one of the best winery restaurants in the United States. In August 2016, the restaurant was named one of the 10 best on-site winery restaurants in the U.S. in a nationwide poll by travel editors from *USA Today*.

“There are more than 9,000 wineries in the United States and many of them have on-premise restaurants,” company president John Bookwalter said. “It’s a great honor for our company and our team to be selected once again for excellence by one of the world’s leading media outlets for wine and food.

“I’m incredibly proud of our team because they live up to this recognition daily by delivering an outstanding and memorable food, beverage and service experience for our guests that is inspired, stylish and local.”

Calling Fiction @ J. Bookwalter a “stylish Pacific Northwest gem,” Zagat editors praised the restaurant’s lineup of “elevated, chef-driven pub favorites like savory avocado fries, tender

Wagyu short ribs and duck confit hash” that pair perfectly with the winery’s “grapefruit-scented Chenin Blancs, bright Rieslings and richly floral Cabernet Francs.”

The menu at Fiction @ J.Bookwalter changes seasonally, Zagat editors wrote, “drawing inspiration from Washington State’s abundant natural resources, and the vibe is perpetually coffeehouse-cool, an earthy interior palette of browns, blacks and burnt orange giving way to a relaxing patio, complete with a roster of live bands to bring a little downtown flavor to this rural hideaway.”

Zagat editors also noted that the restaurant offers a full bar with specialty cocktails and curated whiskey flights in addition to the winery’s full lineup of outstanding Washington State wines.

J. Bookwalter Winery is located in the heart of Washington wine country and has a heritage that extends back 10 generations in American agriculture. Fiction @ J. Bookwalter reflects that heritage with an inventive menu that ranges from casual to upscale.

Fiction @ J. Bookwalter serves lunch, dinner and Sunday brunch featuring local ingredient-driven dishes such as wild Pacific halibut, Snake River Wagyu beef strip loin and Draper Valley chicken and mushrooms. Live music sets the soundtrack several nights per week at the restaurant and winery.

The Zagat Survey was established in 1979 as a way to collect and correlate the ratings of restaurants. It grew into published guides reporting on and rating restaurants, hotels, nightlife and other forms of entertainment and hospitality. After its acquisition by Google in 2011, Zagat has transformed into a searchable, online database of reviews and ratings worldwide.

About J. Bookwalter

J. Bookwalter specializes in producing some of Washington’s finest wines through meticulous winemaking and exceptional vineyard sources. The winery’s tasting room in Richland includes a full-service restaurant, Fiction @ J.Bookwalter, and was named one of the best tasting rooms in the United States by *Sunset* magazine. J. Bookwalter also has a modern tasting studio in Woodinville.

For information about J. Bookwalter Winery, please see www.bookwalterwines.com.

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