

French-American Business Awards 6th edition: Winners announced



The French-American Chamber of Commerce of San Francisco is honored to announce the winners of the 6th 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 40 nominees among 10 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 6th Edition of the annual French-American Business Awards has been another exciting occasion to showcase the diversity and dynamism of the French-American Business community and to welcome some very inspiring guests speakers such as Ron Conway, Co-Founder and Managing Partner at SV Angel, Alex Dayon President and Chief Strategy Officer at Salesforce, Stephane Kasriel CEO at Upwork and Mathilde Froustey, Principal Dancer at San Francisco Ballet. We are proud to highlight so many new French-American success stories every year: congratulations to all the laureates!" – Antoine Villata, President of the FACCSF

The 10 categories - French-American Business Awards 6th edition:

- French Spirit Investor
- Trends of 2019: Leaders in AI innovation
- Wine country personality of the year
- Wine country company of the year
- Young tech entrepreneur
- French Influence in Arts Category
- Startup of the year: people's choice

- Startup of the Year; VC Jury
- Recent French investment in the Bay Area
- Special Leadership

Laureates 2019

French-American Business Awards 6th Edition

Category **French Spirit Investor**



Special Recognition: Ron Conway
SV Angel – Founder & Co-managing partner

Ron Conway is the **Founder and Co-Managing Partner of SV Angel**. Ron has been an active angel investor since the mid 90's. He was the Founder and Managing Partner of the Angel Investors LP funds (1998-2005).

He was included in 2010's Vanity Fair **100 most influential people in the Information Age**. He was awarded **Best Angel at The 2009 TechCrunch Crunchies Awards**. He has been named on **Forbes Magazine Midas** list of top "deal-makers" since 2011.

Ron was with National Semiconductor Corporation in marketing positions (1973-1979), Altos Computer Systems as a co-founder, President and CEO (1979-1990) and took Altos public on Nasdaq in 1982 and served as CEO of Personal Training Systems (PTS) (1991-1995). PTS was acquired by SmartForce/SkillSoft (Nasdaq SKIL).

Category **Trends of 2019: Leaders in AI Innovation**



Award: Fabien Beckers
CEO - Arterys

Fabien Beckers is the CEO and co-founder of **Arterys**, a cloud/deep learning startup that is disrupting the medical imaging space and building image-based precision medicine tools. Fabien has led the growth of the company from four co-founders to a team of 34 today. Under

his leadership, **the company has become a pioneer in cloud-based medical imaging software, offering the first FDA-cleared end-to-end cloud infrastructure for medical imaging.** The key advantages of the platform being an automatic aggregation of real-world data and ability to scale and distribute the processing of increasingly large, complex datasets.

Fabien's vision for the company is to accelerate data-driven medicine by building precision medicine tools based on the consistent quantification of medical image features in combination with molecular, genomics and patient history data. Fabien holds a Ph.D. in Quantum Physics from the [University of Cambridge](#) and a master of business from [Stanford University](#).



Special Recognition: Luc Julia
CTO & SVP - Samsung Electronics

As CTO and SVP Innovation for [Samsung](#), **Dr. Luc Julia** led the company's vision and strategy for the Internet of Things and now focuses on making these machines smarter. **Luc directed Siri at Apple, was Chief Technologist at HP and co-founded a number of start-ups in the Silicon Valley.**

He is a bestselling author with his book "[There is no such thing as Artificial Intelligence](#)", holds dozens of patents and **is recognized as one of the top 100 most influential French developers in the digital world.**

Category [Wine country personality of the year](#)



Award: Pauline Lhote
Director of Winemaking - Domaine Chandon

As winemaker and leader of the #ChandonSquad at [Chandon California](#), **Pauline Lhote is responsible for every part of the winemaking process from grape to glass.** To say that Pauline is passionate about bubbles is an understatement as she grew up in the Champagne region of France. At just 14 years old, she told her parents she wanted to be a winemaker, and specifically that she wanted to make sparkling wine.

While earning a National Diploma of winemaking in Reims, Pauline gained hands-on experience at [Moët & Chandon](#) where she focused on crafting rosé champagnes.

Pauline then set her sights on Chandon California in the Napa Valley, the first French-owned sparkling wine house in California. She arrived in Yountville for a three-month contract in 2006, fell in love with the region and stayed. At just 34 years old she is currently heading into her 13th harvest at Chandon. Since she was promoted to winemaker two years ago, **Pauline has been working to create a new wine style, playing up the California brightness and increasing the vibrancy and intensity of Chandon's flavors and aromas.** She also works closely with the other Chandon wineries throughout the world, especially Chandon Australia and Chandon Argentina, collaborating, sharing and learning from their challenges and successes.

She has been hailed as a female leader in the industry by the likes of [Glamour](#), [Marie Claire](#) and [Nylon](#) as well as "Rising Star" by [The Drinks Business](#) and acknowledged in Wine Enthusiast's 2017 40 Under 40. Pauline has also spoken at various wine conferences and continues to share her experience and knowledge beyond just bubbles as an expert in chic sipping and pairing.



Special Recognition: Nicolas Quillé
Chief Winemaking and Operations Officer
Crimson Wine Group

Nicolas Quille was born in Lyon, France, into a family with three generations working in the wine business. Nicolas holds a Master Degree in Enology (Diplome National d'Oenologie) from the University of Dijon, Burgundy, a Post graduate degree (DESS) in sparkling winery management from the University of Reims, Champagne and a MBA from the University of Washington in Seattle. Nicolas has worked for wineries in Burgundy, Provence, the Rhone Valley, Champagne, the Douro valley, Oregon, Washington, and California.

Nicolas has more than 25 years of experience in the wine industry with an emphasis on winemaking, quality control, winery management, wine portfolio management and merger and acquisitions. Nicolas has judged at numerous wine competitions and speaks at wine conferences on a regular basis.

Currently, Nicolas is the Chief Winemaking and Operations Officer for the Crimson Wine Group. At Crimson, Nicolas is responsible for the operations and the quality of six wineries and estate vineyards in California, Oregon, and Washington.

Nicolas lives in Portland, Oregon with his wife and two children.

Category **Wine country company of the year**



Award: Boisset Collection

In 1961, Jean-Claude and Claudine Boisset, a young couple in the heart of Burgundy, France, embarked on a career in the wine trade. Their first customers were friends of the family; the first wines were acquired from neighbors and childhood friends. Three years later, they purchased their first vineyard plot - Les Evocelles in Gevrey-Chambertin. Today, this parcel is a part of the Boisset family domaine, and **the company bearing his family name has grown to be the leading wine producer in Burgundy, with a Franco-American collection of wineries on two continents, a presence in 80 countries, and collection of unique, independent wineries and historical estates.**

The second generation - Jean-Charles Boisset and his sister Nathalie - carry their parent's vision forward. After working for eight years to develop [Boisset's US business](#), Jean-Charles returned to France in 1999, where he and Nathalie developed and implemented the company's evolving philosophy – from négociant-éleveur to viniculteur. Together they united the family's vineyards in the Côte-de-Nuits and Côte-de-Beaune under a single estate, Le Domaine de La Vougeraie, which showcases [Boisset's](#) unyielding dedication to quality and provides a fitting legacy to their parents, Jean-Claude and Claudine.

Today, the [Boisset Collection](#) unites the old and new world's of wine with its Franco-American spirit and wineries on two continents. It is one of the world's leading family-owned luxury fine wine companies.

Category **Young tech entrepreneurs**



Award: Sebastien Boyer & Thomas Palomares (Farmwise)

Before co-founding FarmWise, **Sebastien Boyer** worked as a mathematician for [IBM](#) Research and a data scientist for [Facebook](#). He holds a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from [MIT](#), where he won the Machine Learning for the Digital Economy competition.

He was recently named among the 35 European Innovators Under 35's list by [MIT Technology Review](#) and was on the 2019 [Forbes](#)' list of 30 under 30. Sebastien is passionate about finding ways to leverage Artificial Intelligence to help farmers grow food in a more sustainable and profitable way.

Thomas Palomares is the CTO of FarmWise.



Special Distinction: Daniel Yannis & Jonathan Perichon (Checkr)

Daniel co-founded [Checkr](#) in 2014 and has grown it from a background check API to a platform used by thousands of companies and millions of job seekers. As CEO, he likes to build great products and teams and is responsible for setting the strategic direction for the company. Prior to [Checkr](#), he worked on prototypes for Mars rovers at [NASA](#) and held engineering roles at startups in the transportation and mobile industries.

Jonathan has a Masters degree in Computer Science and before founding [Checkr](#), he worked as an engineer for transportation and mobile software startup companies.

Category **French Influence in Arts**



*Special Recognition: Mathilde Froustey
San Francisco Ballet – Principal Dancer*

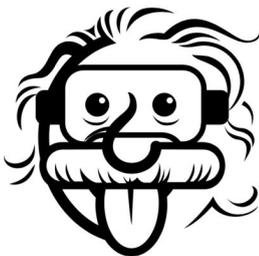
Mathilde is a **principal dancer of San Francisco Ballet** and was a "Sujet", soloist of the **Paris Opera Ballet until 2013**. Learn more about Mathilde [here](#).

Category **Startup of the Year**



*Jury's Choice Award:
ProcessOut*

ProcessOut helps developers deploy their applications faster by simplifying the payments implementation process.



*People's Choice Award:
Einstein Studios*

Dyslexia is not a disability. It is a different way to see the world. Education must adapt. Dyslexic strengths are spatial thinking, episodic memory, multi-sensory learning. So **Einstein Studios** built a learning universe in VR that capitalizes on those strengths.

Einstein Studios builds an education system suited for the 20% of us that have dyslexia.

Category Recent French Investment in the Bay Area



Award: Decathlon USA

[Decathlon](#), a leading company in the sports market, has two activities: the creation of sports products and its distribution of products online and in stores.

Founded on the mission to make sports more accessible to anyone, anywhere, Decathlon designs, innovates, produces and sells its own products, exclusively available in [Decathlon](#)'s points of sale. This vertical integration means that [Decathlon](#) is able to ensure the highest value at the best price point with the goal of increasing access to sports for people of all levels and ability.

Founded and headquartered in France and active abroad in over 51 countries with more than 1,511 points of sale, the services, brands and store teams have been working since 1976 with a constant ambition: to innovate in all areas to remain the main playing partner of all sports lovers.

Category Special Leadership Award



Award: Stephane Kasriel
Upwork – CEO

As CEO of [Upwork](#) (UPWK), the largest freelancing website, and co-chair of the [World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on the New Social Contract](#), **Stephane** is in a unique position to share perspective on trends ranging from the future of work and the evolution of skills to the way education should change.

An expert in staffing innovation and remote work, before ascending to be **CEO Stephane led a distributed team of engineers as Upwork's SVP of Engineering**, helping to drive Upwork's innovation.

In 2018, **Stephane took Upwork public**, helping cement the company's role leading positive change in how we work, with the mission of creating more economic opportunity so people have better lives. His book "[Hire Fast & Build Things](#)" details how to use freelancers to power

businesses.

Stephane holds an MBA from INSEAD, Master's from Stanford in Computer Science and a BS from Ecole Polytechnique in France. The [WEF](#), [Harvard Business Review](#) and [CNBC](#) have featured him on topics including the future of work, education, entrepreneurship and leadership.

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

Media contact:

Jules Caron

Jules.caron@faccsf.com

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