



AWARD TOPS A VINTAGE YEAR

At a recent awards ceremony in London The Whalley Wine Shop received praise in abundance for their expanding range of fine wines, their wine bar ambience, the innovative by-the-glass technology as well as the friendly and knowledgeable team.

Runner-up in the prestigious Regional Wine Merchant of the Year category, The Whalley Wine Shop was named as one of the top two independent wine merchants in the UK at the 2013 Decanter World Wine Awards.

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Tom Jones the young owner of the shop recently travelled to the ceremony at The Royal Opera House in Covent Garden, London, to collect his award.

Describing The Whalley Wine Shop the judges said: “Jones has made The Whalley Wine Shop a success, constantly improving the 1,000-bottle range and employing

For Tom Jones and his team, 2013 has been a year of accolades and awards at The Whalley Wine Shop

an engaging and friendly staff, who aren't too posh to sell sweets and cigarettes... but with a by-the-glass sampling machine, a wine bar area and imaginative tasting

2013 National Drink Retailing Awards, Best Independent Wine Merchant in the Harpers Awards and The IWC Merchant Awards and Small Business of the Year in



events such as the ‘Night of 100 Wines’, The Whalley Wine Shop is every bit as slick as the most upscale urban merchant... it’s a perfect place for customers to learn about wine.”

The Decanter award is the fifth award the shop has been shortlisted for in 2013, following its shortlisting for Independent Wine Retailer of the Year in the

Lancashire’s own BIBA Awards.

The shop has also been featured in The Guardian newspaper where wine critic Fiona Beckett called The Whalley Wine Shop ‘a gem’ and praised the shop’s ‘lively and enthusiastic staff’, calling the Ribble Valley ‘a wine tourists dream’.

Tom commented: “It’s great to be recognised by our peers

for all the hard work and effort that the staff have put in to make the shop a success. The fact that the top people in our industry think The Whalley Wine Shop is a perfect place to come and discover and enjoy wine, gives us a real buzz. We have a great team here, Dan, Matt and Jen are all passionate about wine, and are keen to learn more. They have all just completed their Advanced Wine exams and Matt has recently been in France working on the wine harvest to get a real ‘hands on’ feel of what the wine industry is all about.”

Tom, 28, who hails from Ribchester and is a former Clitheroe Grammar student, has just completed his third year in business at The Whalley Wine Shop.

“Whalley is a special village and our customers have been magnificent from day one, the business has grown every year and our continued success is totally down to their support, we can’t thank them enough.” ■

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