



Heritage Distilling Co. Wins *Manufacturer of the Year* Award *Recognized by Association of Washington Businesses Institute (AWBI)*

For Immediate Release

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GIG HARBOR, WA (October 10, 2017) – Heritage Distilling Company, Inc. (HDC) was honored to be named *Manufacturer of the Year* by the Association of Washington Business Institute (AWBI) at the annual Manufacturing Summit in Seattle.

AWB President Kris Johnson stated, “The Manufacturing Excellence award winners are perfect examples of how Washington manufacturers are leading the way on innovation, demonstrating our shared values of a clean environment, creating economic opportunity for all and updating the perceptions of modern manufacturing operations and careers.”

Past winners of the Manufacturer of the Year Award include Fremont Brewing Company, Nucor Steel Seattle, SGL Automotive Carbon Fibers LLC (BMW’s Moses Lake Facility) and Cadet Manufacturing.

“We are proud to be named as *Manufacturer of the Year* by the Association of Washington Business,” said Justin Stiefel, CEO and Co-Founder of Heritage Distilling Co. “As the statewide chamber of commerce for Washington, AWB is exposed to all facets of Washington’s business environment. For our family owned business to win this award is a tremendous honor, especially given the long and rich history of manufacturing in this state,” Stiefel added. “This award is a testament to the innovation of our team, all the employees who are focused on our products, brand and customer experience every day and our plans for the future. We are planning big expansions in the next twenty-four months and with the support of groups like AWB, we will continue to contribute to the economic growth of the state,” Stiefel concluded.

Heritage Distilling is Washington’s largest independently owned craft distillery, the most awarded craft distillery in North America by the American Distilling Institute four years in a row, and majority women owned.

A video highlighting Heritage Distilling Company’s win award be found here:

<https://vimeo.com/233526353>

About Heritage Distilling Company:

Heritage Distilling Company, Inc. (HDC) is among the top premier craft distilleries in the United States, making a variety of whiskeys, vodkas and gins from as many local ingredients as possible. HDC is one of the largest craft distilleries on the West Coast and is the largest independently owned craft distillery in Washington. Heritage Distilling is the most awarded craft distillery in North America by the American Distilling Institute for the past four years out of more than 1,500 craft distilleries. HDC is a majority women-owned enterprise.

HDC's line of spirits include the *Elk Rider* series, the *HDC* series featuring more than 20 naturally flavored vodkas, the *BATCH NO. 12* line of spirits and HDC's newest product, *BSB-Brown Sugar Bourbon*. *BSB*, along with its higher proof cousin, *BSB-103* (bottled at 103 proof), is the fastest growing craft spirits brand in the region. HDC's products can be found in bars, restaurants and retailers in more than 26 states and selectively in Canada.

HDC currently operates in Washington State, home to more than 110 distilleries – the third most of any state in the nation – and Oregon. HDC owns two production distilleries in Gig Harbor, WA, with tastings, tours and retail sales at both locations. HDC's newest full-scale production distillery opened in Eugene, Oregon in October 2016 and was immediately one of the largest craft distilleries in Oregon upon its opening. Heritage recently announced it is partnering with South Puget Sound Community College, the city of Tumwater, the Port of Olympia and others to open a new production facility in Tumwater, Washington with hands-on classes and accredited academic and degree programs as part of a craft brewing, distilling and cider making revitalization effort in the region.

Heritage is in the final stages of opening its Roslyn, WA distillery, a 10,000-square foot distillery complex with six stills, a full *Cask Club*, two retail tasting rooms and a commercial grade catering and commissary kitchen. The Roslyn location will open in November 2017. Shortly thereafter HDC's new retail distillery on Capitol Hill (Seattle) will open.

Heritage Distilling is a partner and/or official sponsor of the Seattle Mariners, Seattle Seahawks and Portland Trailblazers and is an active member of the community helping to raise money for various charities and non-profit groups across the Pacific Northwest. The company's philanthropic efforts were rewarded with the Secretary of State's "Corporations for Community" award for the state of Washington in 2015.

More information about Heritage Distilling can be found at www.HeritageDistilling.com.

About the Association of Washington Business (AWB):

AWB is the catalytic leader and unifying voice for economic prosperity throughout Washington State. Its mission is to support efforts allowing Washington to excel as a globally competitive state built on a solid foundation of innovation, a world-class workforce, and a quality of place second to none.

AWB represents a diverse membership comprised of businesses, local chambers of commerce, hospitals, private schools and universities. AWB works with an equally diverse array of legislators, policymakers and industry experts to develop policies and practices that contribute to a healthy economic climate.

AWB is well-known for its leadership and problem-solving efforts in Washington, DC, in the state capital and with cities and counties across the state to support a stronger economy. Legislative priorities are crafted with the direct input of member companies who serve on our committees, working groups and board of directors.

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