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Fifth-generation family-owned wine company Angove Family Winemakers has been awarded Exporter of the Year at the Australian Organic Industry Awards.

It is one of only a handful of wineries to be organically certified in major global markets and has experienced strong sales growth and expanding market opportunities.

Certified to Australian, United States, Canadian, European Union and Chinese organic standards, Angove was established in 1886 and this year marks its fifteenth anniversary in farming and making wine under organic certification. Angove joint managing director Richard Angove says, "The extra time and effort the team have put into growing the grapes, crafting the wines, packaging and then distributing them to global markets has been truly worthwhile.

“Being recognised like this means the industry is acknowledging that what we are doing is beneficial to the organic sector – we know it is beneficial for our vineyards and the environment.”

Certified organic grapegrowing and winemaking means going over and above what others in the wine industry are doing, Richard says.

“As well as crafting wine made from grapes grown without synthetic chemical intervention, being certified organic also means we adhere to strict organic protocol standards every step of the way and are independently audited each year,” he says.

“Most importantly, holding organic certification means we are preserving and improving our precious resources for future generations.”

The company saw growth of 12 percent for the 12 months and this included a 100 percent reduction in sales of organic wines to China which imposed the 212 percent tariffs on all Australian wine.

This has been achieved via the launch of the new Naturalis Organic range in the North America and UK markets and the development of the core Angove Organic range in several existing and new countries across Asia and Europe. Richard says that while the Angove Organic wines are multi-award winning and getting great support from trading partners and consumers, a great deal of the credit for the award needs to go to the team at the vineyard, the winery and especially in the export team.

“The export team, even with the current international freight issues, were the very best in the business at getting our wines into markets around the world,” he says.

“Like all wins it is a great team effort and we are very proud and grateful of the team’s ongoing efforts.”