

## News Release

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## For Immediate Release



*2016 Finalist*

***Pinot's Palette*® Co-Founder and CEO Craig Ceccanti, Co-Founder and President Charles Willis and Co-Founder and Chief Creative Officer Beth Willis are named an EY Entrepreneur Of The Year® 2016 Finalist in Gulf Coast Area**

**HOUSTON** – June 13, 2016 – Co-Founder and CEO Craig Ceccanti, Co-Founder and President Charles Willis and Co-Founder and Chief Creative Officer Beth Willis of *Pinot's Palette*® have been named a finalist for the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year® 2016 Award in the Gulf Coast Area. The EY awards program, which is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> year, recognizes entrepreneurs who demonstrate excellence and extraordinary success in such areas as innovation, financial performance and personal commitment to their businesses and communities.

Headquartered in Houston, *Pinot's Palette* has expanded to 172 locations with plans to add another 800 jobs to the system throughout 2016. Craig, Charles and Beth and their creation of the fastest-growing paint and sip franchise in the world were selected as an EY finalist by a panel of independent judges. Award winners will be announced at a special gala event on Thursday, June 16, at the Houston Hilton Americas.

“We had ideas of what success might look like when we took the entrepreneurial plunge, but *Pinot’s Palette* has surpassed our wildest dreams,” said Co-Founder and President Charles Willis. “Being named a finalist for the EY Entrepreneur of the Year is one more sweeping validation of the magic that happens when the right business meets a huge embrace by operators and customers alike. As *Pinot’s Palette* continues to grow across the country and now on an international stage, we are excited to keep adding incredible franchisees to represent the premium paint and sip experience that’s taking the world by storm.”

Now in its 30th year, the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year program has expanded to recognize business leaders in more than 145 cities in more than 60 countries throughout the world.

Regional award winners are eligible for consideration for the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year National program. Award winners in several national categories, as well as the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year National Overall Award winner, will be announced at the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year National Awards gala in Palm Springs, California, on November 19, 2016. The awards are the culminating event of the EY Strategic Growth Forum®, the nation’s most prestigious gathering of high-growth, market-leading companies.

### **Sponsors**

Founded and produced by EY, the Entrepreneur Of The Year Awards are nationally sponsored by SAP America, Merrill Corporation and the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation.

In the Gulf Coast Area, sponsors also include BBVA Compass, Colliers International, DLA Piper, ADP, SolomonEdwards and Pierpont Communications.

### **About *Pinot's Palette***

Pinot's Palette is a pioneer of the paint and sip experience – a revolutionary way to enjoy art and wine, meet new people and bond with friends. With 172 locations open or under development across 34 states and Canada, and new locations popping up monthly, Pinot's Palette is the world's fastest growing paint and sip franchise. Guests enjoy a no-experience-required art class—all supplies included—directed by trained, local artists, who guide guests step-by-step through a featured painting. By bringing fun, modern and creative ideas to their events, Pinot's Palette curates a unique, rewarding experience while providing a worthwhile contribution to the community. For more information, visit [www.PinotsPalette.com](http://www.PinotsPalette.com).

### **About EY Entrepreneur Of The Year®**

EY Entrepreneur Of The Year is the world's most prestigious business award for entrepreneurs. The unique award makes a difference through the way it encourages entrepreneurial activity among those with potential and recognizes the contribution of people who inspire others with their vision, leadership and achievement. As the first and only truly global award of its kind, Entrepreneur Of The Year celebrates those who are building and leading successful, growing and dynamic businesses, recognizing them through regional, national and global awards programs in more than 145 cities in more than 60 countries.

### **About EY's Strategic Growth Markets practice**

EY's Strategic Growth Markets (SGM) practice guides leading high-growth companies. Our multidisciplinary teams of elite professionals provide perspective and advice to help our clients accelerate market leadership. SGM delivers assurance, tax, transactions and advisory services to thousands of companies spanning all industries. EY is the undisputed leader in taking companies public, advising key government agencies on the issues

impacting high-growth companies and convening the experts who shape the business climate. For more information, please visit us at [ey.com/us/strategicgrowthmarkets](https://ey.com/us/strategicgrowthmarkets), or follow news on Twitter [@EY\\_Growth](https://twitter.com/EY_Growth).

### **About EY**

EY is a global leader in assurance, tax, transaction and advisory services. The insights and quality services we deliver help build trust and confidence in the capital markets and in economies the world over. We develop outstanding leaders who team to deliver on our promises to all of our stakeholders. In so doing, we play a critical role in building a better working world for our people, for our clients and for our communities.

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