

The Wine Group Workers in California Ratify a New Contract

About **270 members** of UFCW Local 186D who work for The Wine Group in Ripon, Calif., recently ratified a new contract that strengthens wages and benefits. The Wine Group is one of the largest wine producers in the world, and these members process wine from the grape to the bottle, including shipping the product.

The **four-year contract** includes **wage increases** which are **retroactive to April 1, 2022**.

All members will receive an across-the-board wage increase of **4.5 percent** retroactively for the first year. **The Racker and Blenders will receive a significant wage increase** as adjustments to their pay. Thereafter, wage increases are **3.5 percent** for each year, compounded on the prior wage increase. The contract also includes an **attendance bonus** during the next year, paid quarterly, as well as one **additional paid holiday**. In addition, the contract improves the paid sick leave process and swing shift and graveyard pay, and makes it easier for workers to progress to higher paying positions, plus **additional Employee Assistance Program** paid by the employer.

“When the workers are organized, the fight turns to success,” said Milton Rosado, an employee at The Wine Group and member of UFCW Local 186D. **“If you don’t fight for what you want, don’t cry for what you’ve lost.”**

“We are stronger together,” said UFCW Local 186D President Dee Chacon. **“United we stand, divided we fall. Union is strength.”**

