

For Immediate Release

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Roots Orcas Island Sets Crowd Funding Record

Kickstarter campaign raises \$155,000 making it the most successful in Washington State history

Orcas Island, WA. Roots Orcas Island, a new wine bar and café slated to open this summer, set a new record in restaurant crowd sourcing in Washington State while becoming the fourth most successful campaign in United States history when it raised \$155,086 last month. The Kickstarter campaign ended on May 28th raising a total of \$155,086 over the course of thirty days. The previous record of \$91,626 was set last year by Musang, Melissa Miranda's Beacon Hill, Seattle restaurant. Musang was named the Seattle Met Restaurant of the year in 2020.

The outpouring of support for Roots came from all over the state. It caught everyone by surprise as the initial goal of \$125,000 was met in less than three days. "To see this type of response in a community the size of Orcas is nearly unbelievable," said Deborah Hoskinson, Executive Director of the San Juan Visitors Bureau. "It shows the growing excitement for small businesses focused on hospitality as well as the intense support the island has for those who grew up here."

A full lineup of winemaker dinners and guest chef events will be available soon at www.rootsorcasisland.com and updates can be found on their Instagram page at [@rootsorcasisland.com](https://www.instagram.com/rootsorcasisland.com)

About Roots Orcas Island:

Roots Orcas Island is a wine bar and café slated to open in the summer of 2021. Charcuterie partners include Beast and Cleaver and Olympia Provisions, while cheeses will be international with a focus on local producers including Myers Creamery and Sunnyfield Farm. Founders Cole Sisson and Shea Sasan were raised on the eastside of Orcas Island. Their friendship began in elementary school and they were homeschooled together. Throughout high school they worked at local businesses including Bilbo's Festivo, Teezer's, and Christina's. They graduated together from Orcas Island High School vowing to return home someday.

Cole moved to Seattle after high school where he studied political science at the University of Washington. He has spent his career in the wine and restaurant industry as a sommelier, importer and educator in Vail, Las Vegas, Spain, and Seattle. His experience includes The Bellagio Resort, The Michael Mina Restaurant Group and Bodegas Ontañon. He currently owns Doe Bay Wine Company in Eastsound and The Orcas Project.

Shea's path took him to Southern California where he built a career in luxury hospitality and real estate. His experience includes The Resort at Pelican Hill, Sotheby's International Realty and a founding member of Compass Real Estate, Newport Beach. He moved back to the island with his wife and three daughters in 2019. Shea has expanded his successful real estate career to Orcas Island.

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