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7 Attorneys for Plaintiff Brian Mata,
8 individually, and on behalf of all others similarly situated.

9 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
10 **FOR THE COUNTY OF MADERA**

11 BRIAN MATA, individually and on behalf
12 of all others similarly situated,

13 Plaintiff,

14 vs.

15 GOLDEN VALLEY GRAPE JUICE AND
16 WINE, LLC; and DOES 1 through 20,
17 inclusive,

18 Defendants.

Case No. MCV084386
Case Assigned for all purposes to:
Dept: 44

FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR:

1. Failure to Pay Minimum Wages;
2. Failure to Pay Overtime Wages;
3. Failure to Provide Meal Periods;
4. Failure to Permit Rest Breaks;
5. Failure to Provide Accurate Itemized Wage Statements;
6. Failure to Pay All Wages Due Upon Separation of Employment;
7. Violation of Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*
8. Enforcement of Labor Code § 2698 *et seq.* ("PAGA")

FILED
MADERA SUPERIOR COURT

APR 19 2021

ADRIENNE Y. CALIP CLERK

DEPUTY

BY FAX

1 Plaintiff Brian Mata, individually, and on behalf of others similarly situated, alleges as
2 follows:

3 **NATURE OF ACTION AND INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT**

4 1. Plaintiff Brian Mata (“Plaintiff”) brings this putative class and representative
5 action pursuant to the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, Cal. Lab. Code. § 2698 *et seq.*,
6 against defendants Golden Valley Grape Juice and Wine, LLC, and DOES 1 through 20,
7 inclusive (collectively, “Defendants”), on behalf of himself individually and on behalf of
8 California citizens who are and were employed by Defendants as non-exempt employees
9 throughout California.

10 2. Defendants are in the business of wine making.

11 3. Through this action, Plaintiff alleges that Defendants have engaged in a
12 systematic pattern of wage and hour violations under the California Labor Code and Industrial
13 Welfare Commission (“IWC”) Wage Orders, all of which contribute to Defendants’ deliberate
14 unfair competition.

15 4. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants have
16 increased their profits by violating state wage and hour laws by, among other things:

- 17 (a) failing to pay all wages (including minimum wages and overtime wages);
18 (b) failing to provide lawful meal periods or compensation in lieu thereof;
19 (c) failing to authorize or permit lawful rest breaks or provide compensation
20 in lieu thereof;
21 (d) failing to provide accurate itemized wage statements;
22 (e) failing to pay all wages due upon separation of employment.

23 5. Plaintiff seeks monetary relief against Defendants on behalf of himself and all
24 others similarly situated in California to recover, among other things, unpaid wages and benefits,
25 interest, attorneys’ fees, costs and expenses, and penalties pursuant to Labor Code §§ 201-203,
26 204, 210, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 510, 512, 558, 1174, 1174.5, 1182.12, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1,
27 1198, 2698, *et seq.*, and Code of California Civil Procedure § 1021.5.
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JURISDICTION AND VENUE

6. This is a class action pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 382 and a representative action brought under the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, Cal. Lab. Code §§ 2698, et seq. (“PAGA”). The monetary damages and restitution sought by Plaintiff exceeds the minimal jurisdictional limits of the Superior Court and will be established according to proof at trial.

7. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to the California Constitution, Article VI, § 10, which grants the Superior Court original jurisdiction in all causes, except those given by statutes to other courts. The statutes under which this action is brought do not specify any other basis for jurisdiction.

8. This Court has jurisdiction over all Defendants because, upon information and belief, they are citizens of California, have sufficient minimum contacts in California, or otherwise intentionally avail themselves of the California market so as to render the exercise of jurisdiction over them by the California courts consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

9. Venue is proper in this Court because, upon information and belief, Defendants reside, transact business, or have offices in this county, or the acts and omissions alleged herein took place in this county.

THE PARTIES

10. Plaintiff is a resident of California and worked for Defendants in California during the relevant time periods as alleged herein.

11. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that at all times hereinafter mentioned, Defendants were and are subject to the Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders as employers, whose employees were and are engaged throughout this county and the State of California.

12. Plaintiff is unaware of the true names or capacities of the defendants sued herein under the fictitious names DOES 1 through 20, but will seek leave of this Court to amend this

1 Complaint and serve such fictitiously named defendants once their names and capacities become
2 known.

3 13. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that DOES 1 through 20
4 are or were the partners, agents, owners, shareholders, managers, or employees of Defendants at
5 all relevant times.

6 14. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that each defendant acted
7 in all respects pertinent to this action as the agent of the other defendant, carried out a joint
8 scheme, business plan, or policy in all respects pertinent hereto, and the acts of each defendant
9 are legally attributable to the other defendant. Furthermore, defendants in all respects acted as
10 the employer and/or joint employer of Plaintiff, the class members, and other aggrieved
11 employees.

12 15. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that each and all of the acts
13 and omissions alleged herein were performed by, or are attributable to, Defendants and/or DOES
14 1 through 20, acting as the agent or alter ego for the other, with legal authority to act on the
15 other's behalf. The acts of any and all Defendants were in accordance with, and represent, the
16 official policy of Defendants.

17 16. At all relevant times, Defendants, and each of them, acted within the scope of such
18 agency or employment, or ratified each and every act or omission complained of herein. At all
19 relevant times, Defendants, and each of them, aided and abetted the acts and omissions of each
20 and all the other Defendants in proximately causing the damages herein alleged.

21 17. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that each of said
22 Defendants is in some manner intentionally, negligently, or otherwise responsible for the acts,
23 omissions, occurrences, and transactions alleged herein.

24 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

25 18. Plaintiff brings this action under Code of Civil Procedure § 382 on behalf of
26 himself and all others similarly situated who were affected by Defendants' Labor Code, Business
27 and Professions Code §§ 17200, and IWC Wage Order violations.
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1 19. All claims alleged herein arise under California law for which Plaintiff seeks relief
2 authorized by California law.

3 20. Plaintiff's proposed class consists of and is defined as follows:
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5 Class

6 All California citizens currently or formerly employed by Defendants as non-
7 exempt employees in the State of California at any time between May 15, 2016¹
8 and the date of class certification ("Class").

9 21. Plaintiff also seeks to certify the following subclass of employees:
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11 Waiting Time Subclass

12 All Class Members who separated their employment with Defendants at any time
13 between May 15, 2017 and the date of class certification ("Subclass" or "Waiting
14 Time Subclass").

15 22. Plaintiff reserves the right to modify or re-define the Class, establish additional
16 subclasses, or modify or re-define any class or subclass definition as appropriate based on
17 investigation, discovery, and specific theories of liability.

18 23. Members of the Class and the Subclass described above will be collectively
19 referred to as "Class Members."

20 24. There are common questions of law and fact as to the Class Members that
21 predominate over any questions affecting only individual members including, but not limited to,
22 the following:

23 (a) Whether Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and Class Members all wages
24 (including minimum wages and overtime wages) for all hours worked by
25 Plaintiff and Class Members.

26 (b) Whether Defendants required Plaintiff and Class Members to work over
27 eight (8) hours per day, over twelve (12) hours per day, over forty (40)

28 ¹ The statute of limitations for this matter was tolled between April 6, 2020 and October 1, 2020,
pursuant to Cal. Rules of Court, Appendix I, Emergency Rule No. 9.

hours per week, and/or seven (7) consecutive days and failed to pay them overtime compensation at the proper rate.

(c) Whether Defendants deprived Plaintiff and Class Members of timely meal periods or required Plaintiff and Class Members to work through meal periods without proper compensation.

(d) Whether Defendants deprived Plaintiff and Class Members of rest breaks or required Plaintiff and Class Members to work through rest breaks without proper compensation.

(e) Whether Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff and Class Members accurate itemized wage statements.

(f) Whether Defendants failed to timely pay the Waiting Time Subclass all wages due upon termination or within seventy-two (72) hours of resignation.

(g) Whether Defendants' conduct was willful or reckless.

(h) Whether Defendants engaged in unfair business practices in violation of Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

25. There is a well-defined community of interest in this litigation and the proposed Class and Subclass are readily ascertainable:

(a) Numerosity: The Class Members are so numerous that joinder of all members is impractical. Although the members of the entire Class and Subclass are unknown to Plaintiff at this time, on information and belief, the class is estimated to be greater than twenty-five (25) individuals. The identities of the Class Members are readily ascertainable by inspection of Defendants' employment and payroll records.

(b) Typicality: The claims (or defenses, if any) of Plaintiff are typical of the claims (or defenses, if any) of the Class Members because Defendants' failure to comply with the provisions of California's wage and hour laws entitled each Class Member to similar pay, benefits, and other relief. The injuries sustained by Plaintiff are also typical of the injuries

1 sustained by the Class Members because they arise out of and are caused by Defendants' common
2 course of conduct as alleged herein.

3 (c) Adequacy: Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the
4 interests of all Class Members because it is in his best interest to prosecute the claims alleged
5 herein to obtain full compensation and penalties due to him and the Class Members. Plaintiff's
6 attorneys, as proposed class counsel, are competent and experienced in litigating large
7 employment class actions and versed in the rules governing class action discovery, certification,
8 and settlement. Plaintiff has incurred and, throughout the duration of this action, will continue to
9 incur attorneys' fees and costs that have been and will be necessarily expended for the
10 prosecution of this action for the substantial benefit of the Class Members.

11 (d) Superiority: The nature of this action makes use of class action
12 adjudication superior to other methods. A class action will achieve economies of time, effort, and
13 expense as compared with separate lawsuits and will avoid inconsistent outcomes because the
14 same issues can be adjudicated in the same manner for the entire Class and Subclass at the same
15 time. If appropriate, this Court can, and is empowered to, fashion methods to efficiently manage
16 this case as a class action.

17 (e) Public Policy Considerations: Employers in the State of California violate
18 employment and labor laws every day. Current employees are often afraid to assert their rights
19 out of fear of direct or indirect retaliation. Former employees are fearful of bringing actions
20 because they believe their former employers might damage their future endeavors through
21 negative references and/or other means. Class actions provide class members who are not named
22 in the complaint with a type of anonymity that allows for the vindication of their rights while
23 affording them privacy protections.

24 **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

25 26. At all relevant times mentioned herein, Defendants employed Plaintiff and other
26 California residents as non-exempt employees at Defendants' California business location(s).
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1 27. Defendant employed Plaintiff as a non-exempt employee at Defendants'
2 California business location.

3 28. Defendants continue to employ non-exempt employees within California.

4 29. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that at all times herein
5 mentioned, Defendants were advised by skilled lawyers, employees, and other professionals who
6 were knowledgeable about California's wage and hour laws, employment and personnel
7 practices, and the requirements of California law.

8 30. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants knew or
9 should have known that Plaintiff, Class Members, and other aggrieved employees were entitled
10 to receive wages for all time worked (including minimum wages and overtime wages) and that
11 they were not receiving all wages earned for work that was required to be performed. In violation
12 of the Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders, Plaintiff, Class Members, and other aggrieved
13 employees were not paid all wages (including minimum wages and overtime wages) for all hours
14 worked at the correct rate due to rounding, security checks, requiring off-the-clock work, failing
15 to pay daily overtime, and failing to include incentive pay in the overtime rate, among other
16 issues.

17 31. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants knew or
18 should have known that Plaintiff, Class Members, and other aggrieved employees were entitled
19 to receive all required meal periods or payment of one (1) additional hour of pay at Plaintiff's,
20 Class Members', and other aggrieved employees' regular rate of pay when they did not receive
21 a timely, uninterrupted meal period. In violation of the Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders,
22 Plaintiff, Class Members, and other aggrieved employees did not receive all meal periods or
23 payment of one (1) additional hour of pay at Plaintiff's, Class Members', and other aggrieved
24 employees' regular rate of pay when they did not receive a timely, uninterrupted meal period.

25 32. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants knew or
26 should have known that Plaintiff, Class Members, and other aggrieved employees were entitled
27 to receive all rest breaks or payment of one (1) additional hour of pay at Plaintiff's, Class
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1 Members', and other aggrieved employees' regular rate of pay when a rest break was missed. In
2 violation of the Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders, Plaintiff, Class Members, and other
3 aggrieved employees did not receive all rest breaks or payment of one (1) additional hour of pay
4 at Plaintiff's, Class Members', and other aggrieved employees' regular rate of pay when a rest
5 break was missed.

6 33. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants knew or
7 should have known that Plaintiff, Class Members, and other aggrieved employees were entitled
8 to receive itemized wage statements that accurately showed the following information pursuant
9 to the Labor Code: (1) gross wages earned; (2) total hours worked by the employee; (3) the
10 number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee is paid on a piece-
11 rate basis; (4) all deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of the employee
12 may be aggregated and shown as one item; (5) net wages earned; (6) the inclusive dates of the
13 period for which the employee is paid; (7) the name of the employee and only the last four digits
14 of his or her social security number or an employee identification number other than a social
15 security number; (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer; and (9) all
16 applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours
17 worked at each hourly rate by the employee. In violation of the Labor Code, Plaintiff, Class
18 Members, and other aggrieved employees were not provided with accurate itemized wage
19 statements.

20 34. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants knew or
21 should have known that the Waiting Time Subclass was entitled to timely payment of wages due
22 upon separation of employment. In violation of the Labor Code, the Waiting Time Subclass did
23 not receive payment of all wages within permissible time periods.

24 35. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants knew or
25 should have known they had a duty to compensate Plaintiff, Class Members, and other aggrieved
26 employees, and Defendants had the financial ability to pay such compensation but willfully,
27 knowingly, and intentionally failed to do so in order to increase Defendants' profits.
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1 36. Therefore, Plaintiff brings this lawsuit seeking monetary and injunctive relief
2 against Defendants on behalf of himself, all Class Members, and all other aggrieved employees
3 to recover, among other things, unpaid wages (including minimum wages and overtime wages),
4 unpaid meal period premium payments, unpaid rest period premium payments, interest,
5 attorneys' fees, penalties, costs, and expenses.

6 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

7 **FAILURE TO PAY MINIMUM WAGES**

8 (Violation of Labor Code §§ 1182.12, 1194, 1194.2, and 1197; Violation of IWC Wage Order)

9 37. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs above as
10 though fully set forth herein.

11 38. Labor Code §§ 1194 and 1197 provide that the minimum wage for employees
12 fixed by the IWC is the minimum wage to be paid to employees, and the payment of a lesser
13 wage than the minimum so fixed is unlawful.

14 39. During the relevant time period, Defendants paid Plaintiff and Class Members
15 less than minimum wages when they failed to pay proper compensation for all hours worked. To
16 the extent these hours do not qualify for the payment of overtime, Plaintiff and Class Members
17 were not being paid at least the lawful minimum wage for their work.

18 40. During the relevant time period, Defendants regularly failed to pay at least
19 minimum wage to Plaintiff and Class Members for all hours worked pursuant to Labor Code
20 §§ 1194 and 1197.

21 41. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff and Class Members the required minimum
22 wage violates Labor Code §§ 1194 and 1197. Pursuant to these sections, Plaintiff and Class
23 Members are entitled to recover the unpaid balance of their minimum wage compensation as well
24 as interest, costs, and attorneys' fees.

25 42. Pursuant to Labor Code § 1194.2, Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to
26 recover liquidated damages in an amount equal to the wages unlawfully unpaid and the accrued
27 interest thereon.

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SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

FAILURE TO PAY OVERTIME

(Violation of Labor Code §§ 510, 1194, and 1198; Violation of IWC Wage Order)

43. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

44. Labor Code § 1198 and the applicable IWC Wage Order provide that it is unlawful to employ persons without compensating them at a rate of pay either one and one-half (1½) or two (2) times the person's regular rate of pay, depending on the number of hours or days worked by the person on a daily or weekly basis.

45. Specifically, the applicable IWC Wage Orders provide that Defendants are and were required to pay overtime compensation to Plaintiff and Class Members at the rate of one and one-half times (1½) their regular rate of pay when working and for all hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours in a day or more than forty (40) hours in a workweek and for the first eight (8) hours of work on the seventh day of work in a workweek.

46. The applicable IWC Wage Orders further provide that Defendants are and were required to pay overtime compensation to Plaintiff and Class Members at a rate of two times their regular rate of pay when working and for all hours worked in excess of twelve (12) hours in a day or in excess of eight (8) hours on the seventh day of work in a workweek.

47. California Labor Code § 510 codifies the right to overtime compensation at one and one-half (1½) times the regular hourly rate for hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours in a day or forty (40) hours in a week and for the first eight (8) hours worked on the seventh consecutive day of work, and overtime compensation at twice the regular hourly rate for hours

1 worked in excess of twelve (12) hours in a day or in excess of eight (8) hours in a day on the
2 seventh day of work in a workweek.

3 48. Labor Code § 510 and the applicable IWC Wage Orders provide that employment
4 of more than six days in a workweek is only permissible if the employer pays proper overtime
5 compensation as set forth herein.

6 49. Plaintiff and Class Members were non-exempt employees entitled to the
7 protections of California Labor Code §§ 510 and 1194.

8 50. During the relevant time period, Defendants required Plaintiff and Class
9 Members to work in excess of eight (8) hours in a day, forty (40) hours in a week, and/or for a
10 seventh consecutive day in a workweek without paying Plaintiff and Class Members overtime
11 wages for their work.

12 51. During the relevant time period, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and Class
13 Members overtime wages for all overtime hours worked when Plaintiff and Class Members
14 worked in excess of eight (8) hours in a day, forty (40) hours in a week and/or for a seventh
15 consecutive day of work in a workweek, or when Plaintiff and Class Members worked in excess
16 of twelve (12) hours in a day and/or in excess of eight (8) hours on the seventh day of work in a
17 work week.

18 52. In violation of state law, Defendants knowingly and willfully refused to perform
19 their obligations and compensate Plaintiff and Class Members for all wages earned and all hours
20 worked.

21 53. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff and Class Members the unpaid balance of
22 overtime and double time compensation, as required by California law, violates the provisions
23 of Labor Code §§ 510 and 1198, and is therefore unlawful.

24 54. Pursuant to Labor Code § 1194, Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to
25 recover their unpaid overtime and double time compensation as well as interest, costs, and
26 attorneys' fees.

27 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**
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55. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein

57. Section 11 of the applicable IWC Wage Order states, “[n]o employer shall employ any person for a work period of more than five (5) hours without a meal period of not less than 30 minutes, except that when a work period of not more than six (6) hours will complete the day’s work the meal period may be waived by mutual consent of the employer and the employee.”

59. Labor Code § 512(a) also provides that an employer may not employ an employee for a work period of more than ten (10) hours per day without providing the employee with a second meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes, except that if the total hours worked is no more than twelve (12) hours, the second meal period may be waived by mutual consent of the employer and the employee only if the first meal period was not waived.

61. Labor Code § 226.7(b) and section 11 of the applicable IWC Wage Order requires an employer to pay an employee one (1) additional hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation for each work day that a compliant meal period is not provided.

1 62. At all relevant times, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and Class Members meal
2 period premiums for missed, late, short, and/or interrupted meal periods pursuant to Labor Code
3 § 226.7(b) and section 11 of the applicable IWC Wage Order.

4 63. As a result of Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff and Class Members an additional
5 hour of pay for each day a compliant meal period was not provided, Plaintiff and Class Members
6 suffered and continue to suffer a loss of wages and compensation.

7 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

8 **FAILURE TO PERMIT REST BREAKS**

9 (Violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7; Violation of IWC Wage Order)

10 64. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs above as
11 though fully set forth herein.

12 65. Labor Code § 226.7(a) provides that no employer shall require an employee to
13 work during any rest period mandated by the IWC Wage Orders.

14 66. Section 12 of the applicable IWC Wage Order states "[e]very employer shall
15 authorize and permit all employees to take rest periods, which insofar as practicable shall be in
16 the middle of each work period[,]" and the "[a]uthorized rest period time shall be based on the
17 total hours worked daily at the rate of ten (10) minutes net rest time per four (4) hours or major
18 fraction thereof[,]" unless the total daily work time is less than three and one-half (3½) hours.

19 67. During the relevant time period, Plaintiff and Class Members did not receive a ten
20 (10) minute rest period for every four (4) hours or major fraction thereof worked because they
21 were required to work through their daily rest periods, were not permitted to take timely rest
22 periods, and/or were not authorized to take their rest periods.

23 68. Labor Code § 226.7(b) and section 12 of the applicable IWC Wage Order requires
24 an employer to pay an employee one (1) additional hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of
25 compensation for each work day that a compliant rest period is not provided.

1 69. At all relevant times, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and Class Members rest
2 period premiums for missed, late, and/or interrupted rest periods pursuant to Labor Code §
3 226.7(b) and section 12 of the applicable IWC Wage Order.

4 70. As a result of Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff and Class Members an additional
5 hour of pay for each day a compliant rest period was not provided, Plaintiff and Class Members
6 suffered and continue to suffer a loss of wages and compensation.

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10 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

11 **FAILURE TO PROVIDE ACCURATE ITEMIZED WAGE STATEMENTS**

12 (Violation of Labor Code § 226; Violation of IWC Wage Order)

13 71. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs above as
14 though fully set forth herein.

15 72. Labor Code § 226(a) requires Defendants to provide each employee with an
16 accurate wage statement in writing showing nine pieces of information, including, the following:
17 (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked by the employee, (3) the number of piece-rate
18 units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee is paid on a piece-rate basis, (4) all
19 deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of the employee may be
20 aggregated and shown as one item, (5) net wages earned, (6) the inclusive dates of the period for
21 which the employee is paid, (7) the name of the employee and the last four digits of his or her
22 social security number or an employee identification number other than a social security number,
23 (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer, and (9) all applicable hourly
24 rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each
25 hourly rate by the employee.

26 73. During the relevant time period, Defendants have knowingly and intentionally
27 failed to comply with Labor Code § 226(a) on wage statements that were provided to Plaintiff
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1 and Class Members. Defendants provided Plaintiff and Class Members with wage statements
2 that were missing or inaccurately stated one or more of the following items: (1) gross wages
3 earned, (2) total hours worked by the employee, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and
4 any applicable piece rate if the employee is paid on a piece-rate basis, (4) all deductions, provided
5 that all deductions made on written orders of the employee may be aggregated and shown as one
6 item, (5) net wages earned, (6) the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid,
7 (7) the name of the employee and the last four digits of his or her social security number or an
8 employee identification number other than a social security number, (8) the name and address of
9 the legal entity that is the employer, and/or (9) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay
10 period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee.

11 74. As a result of Defendants' knowing and intentional failure to comply with Labor
12 Code § 226(a), Plaintiff and Class Members have suffered injury and damage to their statutorily-
13 protected rights. Specifically, Plaintiff and Class Members are deemed to suffer an injury
14 pursuant to Labor Code § 226(e) where, as here, Defendants intentionally violated Labor Code §
15 226(a). Plaintiff and Class Members were denied both their legal right to receive, and their
16 protected interest in receiving, accurate itemized wage statements under Labor Code § 226(a). In
17 addition, because Defendants failed to provide the accurate rates of pay on wage statements,
18 Defendants prevented Plaintiff and Class Members from determining if all hours worked were
19 paid at the appropriate rate and the extent of the underpayment. Plaintiff has had to file this
20 lawsuit in order to analyze the extent of the underpayment, thereby causing Plaintiff to incur
21 expenses and lost time. Plaintiff would not have had to engage in these efforts and incur these
22 costs had Defendants provided the accurate hours worked, wages earned, and rates of pay. This
23 has also delayed Plaintiff's ability to demand and recover the underpayment of wages from
24 Defendants.

25 75. Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to recover from Defendants the greater
26 of all actual damages caused by Defendants' failure to comply with Labor Code § 226(a) or fifty
27 dollars (\$50.00) for the initial pay period in which a violation occurred and one hundred dollars
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1 (\$100.00) per employee for each violation in subsequent pay periods in an amount not exceeding
2 four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00) per employee, plus attorneys' fees and costs.

3 76. Defendants' violations of California Labor Code § 226(a) prevented Plaintiff and
4 Class Members from knowing, understanding, and disputing the wages paid to them and resulted
5 in an unjustified economic enrichment to Defendants. As a result of Defendants' knowing and
6 intentional failure to comply with California Labor Code § 226(a), Plaintiff and Class Members
7 have suffered an injury, in the exact amount of damages and/or penalties to be shown according
8 to proof at trial.

9 77. Class Members that are still employed by Defendants are also entitled to
10 injunctive relief under California Labor Code § 226(h), compelling Defendants to comply with
11 California Labor Code § 226. Accordingly, affected Class Members seek the recovery of
12 attorneys' fees and costs incurred in obtaining this injunctive relief.

13 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

14 **FAILURE TO PAY ALL WAGES DUE UPON SEPARATION OF EMPLOYMENT**

15 (Violation of Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203; Violation of IWC Wage Order)

16 78. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs above as
17 though fully set forth herein.

18 79. Labor Code §§ 201 and 202 provide that if an employer discharges an employee,
19 the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately, and that
20 if an employee voluntarily leaves his employment, his or her wages shall become due and payable
21 not later than seventy-two (72) hours thereafter, unless the employee has given seventy-two (72)
22 hours previous notice of an intention to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his or her
23 wages at the time of quitting.

24 80. During the relevant time period, Defendants willfully failed to pay the Waiting
25 Time Subclass all their earned wages upon termination, including, but not limited to, proper
26 minimum wage and overtime compensation, accrued vacation time, meal period premiums, and
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1 rest period premiums either at the time of discharge or within seventy-two (72) hours of their
2 leaving Defendants' employ.

3 81. Defendants' failure to pay the Waiting Time Subclass all their earned wages at
4 the time of discharge or within seventy-two (72) hours of their leaving Defendants' employ is in
5 violation of Labor Code §§ 201 and 202.

6 82. Labor Code § 203 provides that if an employer willfully fails to pay wages owed
7 immediately upon discharge or resignation in accordance with Labor Code §§ 201 and 202, then
8 the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty from the due date at the same rate until
9 paid or until an action is commenced; but the wages shall not continue for more than thirty (30)
10 days.

11 83. Pursuant to Labor Code § 203, the Waiting Time Subclass is entitled to recover
12 from Defendants the statutory penalty, which is defined as the Waiting Time Subclass members'
13 regular daily wages at their regular hourly rate of pay for each day they were not paid, up to a
14 maximum of thirty (30) days.

15 SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

16 **VIOLATION OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE §§ 17200, ET SEQ.**

17 (Violation of Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*)

18 84. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs above as
19 though fully set forth herein.

20 85. California Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*, prohibits acts of
21 unfair competition, which includes any "unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business act or practice .
22 ..."

23 86. A violation of California Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*, may
24 be predicated on a violation of any state or federal law. In the instant case, Defendants' policies
25 and practices violated state law, causing Plaintiff and Class Members to suffer and continue to
26 suffer injuries-in-fact.

1 87. Defendants' policies and practices violated state law in at least the following
2 respects:

- 3 (a) Failing to pay all wages earned (including minimum wage and overtime
4 wages) to Plaintiff and Class Members in violation of Labor Code §§ 510,
5 1182.12, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, and 1198.
6 (b) Failing to provide compliant meal periods without paying Plaintiff and
7 Class Members premium wages for every day said meal periods were not
8 provided in violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512.
9 (c) Failing to authorize or permit compliant rest breaks without paying
10 Plaintiff and Class Members premium wages for every day said rest breaks
11 were not authorized or permitted in violation of Labor Code § 226.7.
12 (d) Failing to provide Plaintiff and Class Members with accurate itemized
13 wage statements in violation of Labor Code § 226.
14 (e) Failing to timely pay all earned wages to the members of the Waiting Time
15 Subclass upon separation of employment in violation of Labor Code §§
16 201, 202, and 203.

17 88. As alleged herein, Defendants systematically engaged in unlawful conduct in
18 violation of the California Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders, such as failing to pay all wages
19 (minimum and overtime wages), failing to provide meal periods and rest breaks or compensation
20 in lieu thereof, failing to furnish accurate wage statements, and failing to pay all wages due and
21 owing upon separation of employment in a timely manner, all in order to decrease their costs of
22 doing business and increase their profits.

23 89. At all relevant times herein, Defendants held themselves out to Plaintiff and Class
24 Members as being knowledgeable concerning the labor and employment laws of California.

25 90. At all times relevant herein, Defendants intentionally avoided paying Plaintiff and
26 Class Members wages and monies, thereby creating for Defendants an artificially lower cost of
27
28

1 doing business in order to undercut their competitors and establish and/or gain a greater foothold
2 in the marketplace.

3 91. As a result of Defendants' intentional, willful, purposeful, and wrongful
4 misrepresentation of their conformance with the California Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders,
5 Plaintiff and Class Members suffered a loss of wages and monies, all in an amount to be shown
6 according to proof at trial.

7 92. By violating the foregoing statutes and regulations as herein alleged, Defendants'
8 acts constitute unfair and unlawful business practices under California Business and Professions
9 Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

10 93. As a result of the unfair and unlawful business practices of Defendants, as alleged
11 herein, Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to injunctive relief, disgorgement, and restitution
12 in an amount to be shown according to proof at trial.

13 94. Plaintiff seeks to enforce important rights affecting the public interest within the
14 meaning of California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5. Defendants' conduct, as alleged herein,
15 has been and continues to be unfair, unlawful, and harmful to Plaintiff, Class Members, and the
16 general public. Based on Defendants' conduct as alleged herein, Plaintiff and Class Members are
17 entitled to an award of attorneys' fees pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5.

18 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

19 **ENFORCEMENT OF LABOR CODE §§ 2698 ET SEQ. ("PAGA")**

20 95. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and incorporate by reference the previous paragraphs as
21 though fully set forth herein.

22 96. Pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(a), any provision of the Labor Code that provides
23 for a civil penalty to be assessed and collected by the Labor and Workforce Development Agency
24 ("LWDA") or any of its departments, divisions, commissions, boards, agencies, or employees for
25 violation of the Labor Code may, as an alternative, be recovered through a civil action brought by
26 an aggrieved employee on behalf of himself or herself and other current or former employees
27 pursuant to the procedures specified in Labor Code § 2699.3.
28

1 97. For all provisions of the Labor Code except those for which a civil penalty is
2 specifically provided, Labor Code § 2699(f) imposes upon Defendants a penalty of one hundred
3 dollars (\$100.00) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for the initial violation and two
4 hundred dollars (\$200.00) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent pay
5 period in which Defendants violated these provisions of the Labor Code.

6 98. Defendants' conduct violates numerous Wage Order and Labor Code sections,
7 including, but not limited to, the following:

- 8 a. Violation of Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 510, 1182.12, 1194,
9 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, and 1198 for failure to timely pay all earned wages
10 (including minimum wage and overtime wages) owed to Plaintiff and other
11 aggrieved employees during employment and upon separation of
12 employment as herein alleged;
- 13 b. Violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512 for failure to provide meal
14 periods to Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees and failure to pay
15 premium wages for missed meal periods as herein alleged;
- 16 c. Violation of Labor Code § 226.7 for failure to permit rest breaks to Plaintiff
17 and other aggrieved employees and failure to pay premium wages for
18 missed rest periods as herein alleged;
- 19 d. Violation of Labor Code § 226 and 226.3 for failure to provide accurate
20 itemized wage statements to Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees as
21 herein alleged; and
- 22 e. Violation of Labor Code §§ 1174 and 1174.5 for failure to maintain accurate
23 and complete records showing, among other things, the hours worked daily
24 by and the wages paid to aggrieved employees.

25 99. Plaintiff is an "aggrieved employee" because he was employed by the alleged
26 violator and had one or more of the violations committed against him, and therefore is properly
27 suited to represent the interests of all other aggrieved employees.
28

100. Plaintiff has exhausted the procedural requirements under Labor Code § 2699.3 as to Defendants and is therefore able to pursue a claim for penalties on behalf of himself and all other aggrieved employees under PAGA.

101. Pursuant to Labor Code §§ 2699(a), 2699.3 and 2699.5, Plaintiff is entitled to recover civil penalties, in addition to other remedies, for violations of the Labor Code sections cited above.

102. Pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(g)(1), “[e]xcept as provided in paragraph (2), an aggrieved employee may recover the civil penalty described in subdivision (f) in a civil action pursuant to the procedures specified in Section 2699.3 filed on behalf of himself or herself and other current or former employees against whom one or more of the alleged violations was committed. Any employee who prevails in any action shall be entitled to an award of reasonable attorney’s fees and costs, including any filing fee paid pursuant to subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) or subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section 2699.3. Nothing in this part shall operate to limit an employee’s right to pursue or recover other remedies available under state or federal law, either separately or concurrently with an action taken under this part.”

103. For bringing this action, Plaintiff is entitled to attorney's fees and costs incurred herein.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Plaintiff, on his own behalf and on behalf of all others similarly situated, prays for relief and judgment against Defendants, jointly and severally, as follows:

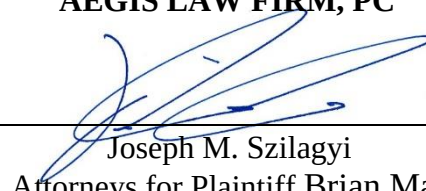
1. For certification under California Code of Civil Procedure § 382 of the proposed Class, Waiting Time Subclass, and any other appropriate subclasses;
2. For appointment of Brian Mata as the class representative;
3. For appointment of Aegis Law Firm, PC, as class counsel for all purposes;
4. For compensatory damages in an amount according to proof at trial;

- 1 5. For an award of damages in the amount of unpaid compensation including, but
2 not limited to, unpaid wages, benefits, and penalties;
3 6. For economic and/or special damages in an amount according to proof at trial;
4 7. For liquidated damages pursuant to Labor Code § 1194.2;
5 8. For statutory penalties to the extent permitted by law, including those pursuant to
6 the Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders;
7 9. For injunctive relief as provided by the California Labor Code and California
8 Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*;
9 10. For restitution as provided by Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*;
10 11. For an order requiring Defendants to restore and disgorge all funds to each
11 employee acquired by means of any act or practice declared by this Court to be unlawful, unfair,
12 or fraudulent and, therefore, constituting unfair competition under Business and Professions
13 Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*;
14 12. For pre-judgment interest;
15 13. For civil penalties, including but not limited to, penalties against Defendants on
16 behalf of all aggrieved employees pursuant to Labor Code §§ 210, 226.3, 1174.5, and 2698, *et*
17 *seq.*
18 14. For reasonable attorneys' fees, costs of suit, and interest to the extent permitted
19 by law, including, but not limited to, Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5 and Labor Code §§ 226(e),
20 1194, and 2698 *et seq.*; and
21 15. For such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.
22
23

24 Dated: March 26, 2021

AEGIS LAW FIRM, PC

25
26 By: _____

27 
28 Joseph M. Szilagyi
 Attorneys for Plaintiff Brian Mata

1 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

2 I, the undersigned, am employed in the County of Orange, State of California. I am over
3 the age of 18 and not a party to the within action; am employed with Aegis Law Firm PC and
4 my business address is 9811 Irvine Center Drive, Suite 100, Irvine, California 92618.

On April 19, 2021, I served the foregoing document entitled:

5 • **FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT**

6 on all the appearing and/or interested parties in this action by delivering ☐ the original ☒ a
7 true copy thereof on the party(ies) addressed below as follows:

8 Giulio A. Sanchez
9 Michael S. Helsley
10 June Villacorta
11 Kimberly Dodd
12 WANGER JONES HELSLEY PC
13 265 E. River Park Circle
14 Suite 310
15 Fresno, California 93720
16 Phone: (559) 233-4800, Ext. 129
17 Fax: (559) 233-9330
18 gsanchez@wjhattorneys.com
19 mhelsley@wjhattorneys.com
20 jvillacorta@wjhattorneys.com
21 kdodd@wjhattorneys.com

22 *Attorneys for Defendant:*

23 GOLDEN VALLEY GRAPE JUICE AND WINE, LLC

24 ☐ **(BY MAIL)** I am readily familiar with the firm's practice of collection and processing
25 correspondence for mailing. Under that practice it would be deposited with the U.S.
26 Postal Service on that same day with postage thereon fully prepaid at Irvine, California
27 in the ordinary course of business. I am aware that on motion of the party served, service
28 is presumed invalid if postage cancellation date or postage meter date is more than one
day after date of deposit for mailing this affidavit. (*Cal Code Civ. Proc.* § 1013(a); *Fed.*
R. Civ. Proc. 5(a); *Fed. R. Civ. Proc.* 5(c).)

☐ **(BY OVERNIGHT MAIL)** I am personally and readily familiar with the business
practice of Aegis Law Firm PC for collection and processing correspondence for
overnight delivery, and I caused such document(s) described herein to be deposited for
delivery to a facility regularly maintained Federal Express for overnight delivery. (*Cal*
Code Civ. Proc. § 1013(c); *Fed. R. Civ. Proc.* 5(c).)

☒ **(BY ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION)** I caused said document(s) to be served via
electronic transmission via the above listed email addresses on the date below. (*Cal.*
Code Civ. Proc. § 1010.6(6); *Fed. R. Civ. Proc.* 5(b)(2)(E); *Fed. R. Civ. Proc.* 5(b)(3).)

☐ **(BY PERSONAL SERVICE)** I delivered the foregoing document by hand delivery to
the addressed named above. (*Cal Code Civ. Proc.* § 1011; *Fed. R. Civ. Proc.*
5(b)(2)(A).)

1 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the
2 foregoing is true and correct.

3 Executed on April 19, 2021, at Irvine, California.

4
5 
6 Andrea Drocco