

STATE FAIR

OF VIRGINIA AT THE MEADOW

For Immediate Release

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18th annual State Fair Wine Competition brings record 239 entries ***Wine entries considered among nation's best, says veteran competition judge***

RICHMOND, VA (June 16, 2009) – A panel of 20 distinguished wine sommeliers, producers, retailers, writers, restaurateurs and collectors spent much of Monday, June 8 swirling, sniffing and sipping 239 Virginia wines – from 48 Virginia wineries – entered in the 2009 State Fair of Virginia Wine Competition. The competition featured a blind tasting of wines, where the judges awarded Gold ribbons to 28 wines and Silver ribbons to 27 wines. (See page 3 for complete listing of winners.)

Held at the Montpelier Center for Arts & Education in Montpelier, the competition featured Virginia wine varietals of Chardonnay, Viognier, Cabernet, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Petit Verdot. In addition, the entries included a new varietal – *Traminette* – which was among the Gold ribbon winners. A hybrid of Sauvignon Blanc and Gewurztraminer, Traminette is a fragrant and well-made wine with a good blend of aroma, acidity and complexity.

“We had the most wines entered this year than ever before, and it is nice to see the industry grow and really go forward even from just five years ago,” said George Davis, a senior judge who has been judging the competition since its inception. “National industry trends reflect lighter, less tannic wines and less use of oak. We saw more un-oaked wines this year and the submissions of un-oaked Chardonnay is a perfect example. Among the reds, the Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot wines had less oak exposure as well. They all were well-made wines.

“The spectacular 2007 vintage also gave the vintners great fruit to work with, and it showed in the smooth, ripe wines they have produced.”

Wines were judged according to national wine industry standards. The judges included:

- George Davis (Sr. Judge) – Sales Manager, Restaurant & Fine Wine Division ~ J.P. Distributing Co.
- Richard Carew (Sr. Judge) – Total Wine and More
- Gabriele Rausse (Sr. Judge) – Winemaker / Consultant

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- David Barber -- AWS judge, Vice-President ~ Atlantic Seaboard Wine Association
- J. Tobias Beard -- Wine Columnist ~ *C-VILLE Weekly*
- Jack Berninger – wine columnist, *Richmond Times-Dispatch*
- Carl Brandhorst – AWS judge, President ~ Atlantic Seaboard Wine Association
- Ben Eubanks – Director of Restaurants & Wine Director ~ The Jefferson Hotel
- Elaine Futhey – Wine Buyer ~ C & O Restaurant
- Charles Gendrot – winemaker, consultant
- Patrick Getlein – freelance writer, former food & restaurant critic ~ *Style Weekly*
- Kirsty Harmon – Winemaker ~ Blenheim Vineyards
- Frits Huntjens -- Chef / Owner ~ 1 North Belmont Restaurant
- Tom Payette – Winemaking Consultant
- Tim Rausse -- Winemaker, Blenheim Vineyard
- Adam Steely – Owner / Manager, Blue Talon Bistro
- Rock Stephens -- President ~ Virginia Vineyards Association, Vice-Chairman ~ Virginia Wine Board
- Matt Thomas – kybecca wine bar & shop
- Karen Webb – Private Collector
- Andy Williams – Private Collector

William Bevilaqua, a former VCU Design & Drawing Professor, and Shari Hindman, Creative Director for Richmond advertising agency Siddall, were label judges evaluating for individual label design, overall winery presentation and overall consistency for label design.

With 140 wineries today, Virginia ranks fifth in the nation for the number of wineries, following California, New York, Oregon and Washington.

“This was the most uniformly, high-quality judging I have done,” notes Davis. “Virginia wine makers are using their experience to make better wines across the board and we had many flights that were consistent in quality, particularly in the reds.”

Among the gold winners, the State Fair of Virginia will announce the top winning wine – “Best in Show” – on Wednesday, September 23, at *Black Tie & Boots*, a fundraiser and VIP preview to the 2009 State Fair, benefiting the State Fair of Virginia Scholarship Program.

Winning wines from the State Fair Wine Competition will be displayed among hundreds of competition entries at the 2009 State Fair of Virginia, which returns September 24 through October 4 at The Meadow Event Park in Doswell, Virginia. A complete listing of competitions, entry forms and entry deadlines – as well as complete ticket information and schedules – are available online at www.statefairva.org or by calling 1-800-LUV-FAIR (1-800-588-3247) or (804) 994-2800. The State Fair is handicap accessible. No pets permitted.

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The State Fair of Virginia event is presented each Fall by SFVA (State Fair of Virginia, Inc.)

SFVA is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization not affiliated with state government. In a world where Virginia's open land and traditions that shaped our culture are rapidly vanishing, SFVA's goal is to keep cherished ideals and experiences alive in the Commonwealth.

2009 State Fair of Virginia Wine Competition

June 8, 2009

NOTE: Best in Show will be announced on Wednesday, September 23, at the 6th annual *Black Tie & Boots* gala, featuring Virginia's gold winners, gourmet foods, live music and a live and silent auction.

Gold Ribbon – Winners

Barboursville Vineyards - Cabernet Franc Reserve 2006
Barboursville Vineyards - Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve 2006
Barrel Oak Winery - Merlot 2007
Barrel Oak Winery - Traminette 2008
Barren Ridge Vineyards - Meritage 2007
Breaux Vineyards - Viognier 2007
Cooper Vineyards - Viognier 2008
Delfosse Vineyards & Winery - Merlot 2007
Flying Fox Vineyard - Petit Verdot 2006
Gadino Cellars - Cabernet Franc 2007
Gray Ghost Vineyards - Gray Ghost Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2006
Hillsborough Vineyards - Garnet 2006
Ingleside Plantation Vineyards - Petit Verdot (Reserve) 2005
James River Cellars - Meritage 2007
Lake Anna Winery - Merlot 2005
North Mountain Vineyard and Winery - Midnight NV
Paradise Springs Winery - Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2007
Pearmund Cellars - Ameritage 2007
Potomac Point Winery - Heritage Reserve 2007
Rappahannock Cellars - Chardonnay 2007
Rockbridge Vineyard - Cabernet Franc 2006
Rockbridge Vineyard - Chardonnay 2007
Sunset Hills Vineyard - Reserve Cabernet Franc 2007
Sunset Hills Vineyard - Petit Verdot 2006
The Winery at La Grange - "Fletcher's" Chardonnay 2007
Breaux Vineyards, Ltd. - Nebbiolo Ice 2008
Holly Grove Vineyards - Holly Grove Vineyards High Tide Traminette 2008
James River Cellars - Divino 2008

Silver Ribbon - Winners

Barboursville Vineyards - Octagon Eight Edition 2005
Barboursville Vineyards - Cabernet Sauvignon 2007
Barrel Oak Winery - Cabernet Sauvignon 2007
Barren Ridge Vineyards - Tinkling Spring 2008
Breaux Vineyards - Equation NV
Breaux Vineyards - Syrah Rose 2008
Chrysalis Vineyards - Mariposa 2008
Chrysalis Vineyards - Viognier 2008
Crosskeys Vineyards - Meritage 2006
Delfosse Vineyards & Winery - Cabernet Sauvignon 2007
Flying Fox Vineyard - Cabernet Franc 2006
Ingleside Plantation Vineyards - Merlot 2005
Keswick Vineyards - Cabernet Franc 2007
Keswick Vineyards - Les Vent D Anges Viognier 2008
Lake Anna Winery - Enigme NV
Naked Mountain Vineyard - Virginia Raptor Red 2006
Naked Mountain Vineyard - Barrel Fermented Virginia Chardonnay 2006
Pearmund Cellars - Old Vine Chardonnay (Meriweather Vineyard) 2007
Prince Michel Vineyard & Winery - Ivy Creek Cabernet Sauvignon 2005
Rappahannock Cellars - Cabernet Franc 2007
Rockbridge Vineyard - Meritage 2006
Vintage Ridge Vineyard - Petit Verdot - Vintage Ridge 2006
West Wind Farm Vineyard & Winery - Riesling 2008
Woodland Vineyard - Merlot 2007
Chateau Morrisette - Frosty Dog 2008
Crosskeys Vineyards - Ali.doro 2006
MountainRose Vineyards - Autumn Gold 2007

Label Competition Winners

Individual Label Design

1st Place: *Hillsborough Vineyards – Bloodstone*
2nd Place: *Breaux Vineyards – Equation*
3rd Place: *Vintage Ridge Vineyard – Summer Night*
Honorable Mention: *Vintage Ridge Vineyard – Petit Verdot*

Overall Winery Presentation

1st Place: Notaviva Vineyards
2nd Place: Fabboli Cellars
3rd Place: Paradise Springs Winery
Honorable Mention: Sunset Hills Vineyard

Overall Consistency for Label Design

Prince Michel Vineyard & Winery