



MEDIA CONTACT ONLY

California State Fair Media Center
(916) 263-3108 or (916) 416-0796
MediaCenter@calexpo.com

NEWS RELEASE

CE&SF – 069-08

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 10, 2008

**CALIFORNIA'S BEST WINES ANNOUNCED AT THE STATE'S
PREMIER FOOD AND WINE EVENT**

*Best Wines and Wineries from 2008 State Fair Commercial Wine
Competition to be Recognized*

SACRAMENTO – The California State Fair will honor the best winemakers, brewers and cheese makers in the state at the 13th annual California's Grape & Gourmet, the state's premier food and wine event.

The event, which benefits the Friends of the California State Fair Scholarship Fund, will take place Thursday, July 10 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Cal Expo. The public will have the opportunity to taste medal-winning wines poured by over 200 wineries from the 2008 California State Fair Commercial Wine Competition, the oldest and most prestigiously judged wine competition in North America.

Admission to California's Grape & Gourmet includes wine and food tasting, as well as a free commemorative wineglass and plate. Wines will also be available for purchase by the case or bottle.

Seventy-five of the area's award-winning restaurants will provide delicious food for the tasting, including Thai Basil Restaurant, Ernesto's, 4th Street Grill, The Melting Pot and The Zinfandel Grille.

Golden Winery and Best of Show Award winners will be announced at the California's Grape & Gourmet. All medal award-winners and complete results of the 2008 California State Fair commercial Wine Competition are available online at www.thebestcaliforniawine.com. Results are also available August 2008 in *California Wine*, the State Fair's annual wine publication. A copy of this magazine will be available at the California State Fair Wine Garden at the State Fair or for sale on the State Fair's Web site.

Additionally, the 2008 Wine Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented at the Grape & Gourmet to Mary Ann Graf, Mike Grgich, and Warren Winiarski. The award recognizes those individuals who have contributed extensively over a number of years to the promotion, advancement and growth of the wine industry.

Wine Competition Results

At this year's Wine Competition, more than 2,900 wine entries were received from more than 648 participating wineries. Sixty-eight professional wine judges awarded 1,587 medals, including 56 Double Gold, 208 Gold, 844 Silver and 479 Bronze awards. Award winners include:

Best of Show - Dessert

DOUBLE GOLD 98

Navarro Vineyards

2007 Anderson Valley, Mendocino Late Harvest White Riesling

Best of Show - Red

GOLD 95

Castle Rock Winery

2006 Mendocino County Pinot Noir

Best of Show - White

DOUBLE GOLD 98

Loredona

2007 Monterey Riesling

Best Value

GOLD 95

Castle Rock Winery

2006 Mendocino County Pinot Noir

Golden State Winery of the Year

South Coast Winery

Best Of Region Awards

BEST OF NORTH COAST RED

GOLD 95

Castle Rock Winery

2006 Mendocino County Pinot Noir

BEST OF NORTH COAST WHITE

GOLD 94

Shannon Ridge Vineyards & Winery

2007 Lake County Roussanne

BEST OF SONOMA RED

GOLD 95

Valley of the Moon Winery

2007 Sonoma County Rosato di Sangiovese

BEST OF SONOMA WHITE

GOLD 95

Korbel Champagne

2005 Russian River Valley Natural

BEST OF NAPA RED

DOUBLE GOLD 98

Davis Family Vineyards

2005 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

BEST OF NAPA WHITE
DOUBLE GOLD 98

Mumm Napa Valley

NV Napa Valley Pinot Noir Blanc de Noirs

BEST OF GREATER BAY RED
GOLD 94

Loma Prieta Winery

2006 Santa Cruz Mountains Pinot Noir

BEST OF GREATER BAY WHITE
GOLD 94

Concannon Vineyard

2006 Livermore Valley Reserve Chardonnay

BEST OF NORTH-CENTRAL COAST RED
GOLD 94

Big House

2006 Central Coast The Lineup, GSM Red Wine

BEST OF NORTH-CENTRAL COAST RED
GOLD 94

Chateau Julien

2005 Monterey County Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

BEST OF NORTH-CENTRAL COAST WHITE
DOUBLE GOLD 98

Jekel Vineyards

2007 Monterey Riesling

BEST OF NORTH-CENTRAL COAST WHITE
DOUBLE GOLD 98

Loredona

2007 Monterey Riesling

BEST OF SOUTH-CENTRAL COAST RED
DOUBLE GOLD 98

Sculpterra Winery

2006 Paso Robles Syrah

BEST OF SOUTH-CENTRAL COAST WHITE
GOLD 94

EOS Estate Winery

2007 Paso Robles Tears of Dew Late Harvest Muscato

BEST OF SOUTH COAST RED
GOLD 94

Rosenthal-The Malibu Estate

2004 Malibu-Newton Canyon Merlot

BEST OF SOUTH COAST WHITE
GOLD 95

South Coast Winery

2007 Temecula Valley Gewürztraminer

BEST OF SIERRA FOOTHILLS RED
GOLD 94

Obscurity Cellars

2006 Sierra Foothills Son of O'Blivion

BEST OF SIERRA FOOTHILLS WHITE
GOLD 95

Vina Moda

2007 Sierra Foothills Viognier

BEST OF LODI RED
DOUBLE GOLD 98

Crystal Valley Cellars

2006 Lodi Estate Ancient Vine Zinfandel

BEST OF LODI WHITE
DOUBLE GOLD 97

Clay Station

2007 Lodi Viognier

BEST OF OTHER CALIFORNIA RED
GOLD 94

Jeff Runquist Wines

2006 Clarksburg Petite Sirah

BEST OF OTHER CALIFORNIA WHITE
GOLD 94

Herzog Wine Cellars

2006 Clarksburg Late Harvest Chenin Blanc

BEST OF CALIFORNIA STATE RED
GOLD 94

HRM Rex Goliath Wines

NV California Cabernet Sauvignon
Free Range Giant 47 Pound Rooster

BEST OF CALIFORNIA STATE WHITE
DOUBLE GOLD 99

Korbel Champagne

NV California Brut Blanc de Noirs

Best of California

BEST BARBERA
DOUBLE GOLD 98

Charles B. Mitchell Vineyards

2006 Fair Play Reserve Barbera

BEST CABERNET FRANC
DOUBLE GOLD 98

Cinnabar Vineyard & Winery

2004 Lodi Limited Production, Exclusive Release Cabernet France

BEST CABERNET SAUVIGNON
DOUBLE GOLD 98
Calcareous Vineyards
2005 York Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon

BEST BORDEAUX VARIETAL BLEND
GOLD 94
Conn Creek Winery
2004 Napa Valley Anthology

BEST CHARDONNAY
DOUBLE GOLD 98
Martin & Weyrich Winery
2005 Edna Valley Chardonnay

BEST GEWÜRZTRAMINER
GOLD 94
Husch Vineyards
2007 Anderson Valley Late Harvest Gewürztraminer

BEST ROSÉ
DOUBLE GOLD 98
South Coast Winery
2007 California Grenache Rosé

BEST MERLOT
DOUBLE GOLD 98
Clos du Bois
2005 Alexander Valley Sonoma Reserve Merlot

BEST MUSCAT
DOUBLE GOLD 98
Dusinberré
2004 Napa Valley Tesoro Del Sol Late Harvest Muscat Cannelli

BEST PETITE SIRAH
DOUBLE GOLD 98
Perry Creek Winery
2005 El Dorado County Petite Sirah

BEST PINOT GRIGIO
DOUBLE GOLD 98
3 Blind Moose
2007 California Pinot Grigio

BEST PINOT NOIR
GOLD 95
Castle Rock Winery
2006 Mendocino County Pinot Noir

BEST VIOGNIER
DOUBLE GOLD 97
Clay Station
2007 Lodi, California Viognier

BEST RED GENERIC
DOUBLE GOLD 97
Graveyard Vineyards
NV Paso Robles Tombstone Red

BEST SANGIOVESE
DOUBLE GOLD 98
Cosentino Winery
2005 California IL Chiaretto Sangiovese

BEST SAUVIGNON BLANC
GOLD 94
Wildhurst Vineyards
2007 Late Harvest Reserve Sauvignon Blanc

BEST SPARKLING WINE
DOUBLE GOLD 98
Mumm Napa
NV Napa Valley Blanc de Noirs

BEST SPECIALTY RED VARIETAL BLEND
DOUBLE GOLD 98
Justin Vineyard & Winery
2005 Paso Robles Savant

BEST SHIRAZ
DOUBLE GOLD 98
Virgin Wines
2006 California Shiraz

BEST PORT
DOUBLE GOLD 98
EOS Estate Winery
2006 Paso Robles Zinfandel Port

BEST RIESLING
DOUBLE GOLD 98
Loredona
2007 Monterey Riesling

BEST RIESLING
DOUBLE GOLD 98
Jekel Vineyards
2007 Monterey Riesling

BEST WHITE ZINFANDEL
GOLD 94
Fox Brook Winery
2007 California White Zinfandel

BEST ZINFANDEL
DOUBLE GOLD 98
Macchia Winery
2006 Lodi Outrageous, Old Vine Zinfandel

* Many of these wines and numerous others will be available at the Save Mart Supermarkets Wine Garden at the 2008 California State Fair.

THE *California*
STATE FAIR
is Going Hollywood!
AUGUST 15 - SEPTEMBER 1, 2008 • CAL EXPO