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Wineries Recognized at the State's Most Prestigious Food and Wine Event of the Year

Golden Winery and Best of Show Wine Award Winners Finally Unveiled

SACRAMENTO – The California State Fair today honored the best winemakers, brewers and cheese makers in the state at the eighth annual California's Grape & Gourmet, the state's most prestigious food and wine event of the year.

"This is by far the largest gathering of award-winning wines presented for public tasting at one event in North America," said Michael Bradley, Chief, Bureau of Exhibits.

The event, which benefits the Friends of the California State Fair Scholarship Fund, took place in Cal Expo Buildings A and B. The public sampled medal-winning wines poured by 180 wineries from the 2004 California State Fair Commercial Wine Competition, the oldest and most prestigious wine competition in North America.

Those in attendance also took home a free commemorative wineglass and plate. Wines were also be available for purchase by the case or bottle.

Ninety of the area's finest restaurants, recognized by the 2004 Diner's Choice Competition featured in Sacramento Magazine, provided delicious food for the tasting. Attached is the complete list of restaurants that were present this year.

At this year's Wine Competition, a record number of 2,926 wine entries were received from a record total of 596 wineries participating. Sixteen panels of four judges awarded 1,268 medals this year, consisting of 47 double gold, 191 gold, 472 silver, and 558 bronze medals. A list of this year's judges is also attached.

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The big announcement of the evening came when V. Sattui Winery was presented with the 2004 Golden Winery Award. It was also unveiled that Runquist Wines won the Best of Show Award for its 2002 R Petite Sirah, Salman Vineyard, Clarksburg.

Other award winners included:

Best of Region

Best Wine of North Coast Appellations (Tie)

Navarro Vineyards, 2003 Gewürztraminer, Anderson Valley Mendocino
La Crema Winery, 2001 Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley

Best Wine of Sonoma Appellations

Alexander Valley Vineyards, 2000 Cyrus, Alexander Valley

Best Wine of Napa Appellations

Bourassa Vineyards, 2001 Harmony 3, Napa Valley

Best Wine of Greater Bay Appellations

Crooked Vine Winery, 2001 Sangiovese, Livermore Valley

Best Wine of North-Central Coast Appellations

White Crane Winery, 2002 Reserve Zinfandel, Cienega Valley

Best Wine of South-Central Coast Appellations

Lafond Winery and Vineyard, 2002 SRH Syrah, Santa Rita Hills

Best Wine of South Coast Appellations (Tie)

Van Roekel Vineyards, 2003 Gewürztraminer, Temecula
Orfila Vineyards, NV Lotus #123, San Pasqual Valley

Best Wine of Sierra Foothills Appellations (Tie)

Milliaire Winery, 2001 Syrah, Sierra Foothills
Gold Hill Vineyard, 2001 Merlot, El Dorado

Best Wine of Lodi Appellations

Earthquake, 2002 Petite Sirah, Lodi

Best Wine of Other California Appellations (Excluding Statewide)

Runquist Wines, 2002 R Petite Sirah, Clarksburg

Best Wine of California (State) Appellations

Kendall-Jackson Vineyards, 2001 Vintner's Reserve Petite Sirah, California

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Best of California

Best Barbera of California

Sunset Cellars, 2002 Barbera, Twin Creeks Vineyard, Napa Valley

Best Sparkling Wine of California (Tie)

Gloria Ferrer Champagne Caves, NV Methode Champenoise Blanc de Noirs, Sonoma County

Korbel Champagne, 2001 Methode Champenoise Natural, Russian River Valley

Best Bordeaux Blend of California

Alexander Valley Vineyards, 2000 Cyrus, Alexander Valley

Best Cabernet Franc of California

Peju Province, 2001 Province Cabernet Franc, Napa Valley

Best Cabernet Sauvignon of California

Cosentino Winery, 2001 Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley

Best Chardonnay of California (Tie)

Benziger Family Winery, 2002 Chardonnay, Carneros
Sullivan Birney Winery & Vineyards, 2002 Chardonnay, Sonoma Coast

Best Gewürztraminer of California

Sutter Home Winery, 2003 Gewürztraminer, California

Best Merlot of California

Blackstone Winery, 2002 Merlot, Napa Valley

Best Muscat of California (Tie)

Fresno State Winery, 2001 Muscat Canelli, John Diener Vineyard, Fresno County
St. Supéry Vineyards, 2003 Moscato, California

Best Petite Sirah of California

Runquist Wines, 2002 R Petite Sirah, Salman Vineyard, Clarksburg

Best Pinot Grigio of California

Monteviña Winery, 2003 Pinot Grigio, California

Best Pinot Noir of California (Tie)

David Bruce Winery, 2002 Pinot Noir, Sonoma Coast
Rodney Strong Vineyards, 2001 Reserve Pinot Noir, Jane's Vineyard, Russian River Valley

Best Red Generic of California

V. Sattui Winery, 2001 Sattui Family Red Generic, California

Best Riesling of California (Tie)

V. Sattui Winery, 2003 Off Dry Johannisberg Riesling, Napa Valley
Herzog Wine Cellars, 2003 Late Harvest Johannisberg Riesling, Monterey County

Best Sangiovese of California

Lookout Ridge Winery, 2001 Alta Coma Sangiovese, Mendocino

Best Sauvignon Blanc of California

Wildhurst Vineyards, 2003 Reserve Sauvignon Blanc, Lake County

Best Syrah of California

Rosenblum Cellars, 2002 Syrah, England-Shaw Vineyard, Solano County

Best Viognier of California

Jewel Collection, 2003 Viognier, California

Best Zinfandel of California

Earthquake, 2002 Zinfandel, Lodi

Additionally, the 2004 Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to California Winegrowing Pioneer Robert Young. The award recognizes an individual who has contributed extensively over a number of years to the promotion, advancement, and growth of the wine industry.

Complete results of the 2004 California State Fair Commercial Wine Competition are available online at www.bigfun.org. Results are also available beginning August 20 in California Wine. A copy of this magazine is available at the Albertsons Wine Country at the Fair or on the Fair's web site.

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