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At the 2009 International Cold Climate Wine Competition...

Falconer Vineyards & Winery wins “Governor’s Cup”

Saint Paul, Minnesota, AUGUST 25, 2009—Falconer Vineyards and Winery 2007 *Frontenac Reserve Red Wing Port* from Red Wing, Minnesota won the coveted “Minnesota Governor’s Cup” trophy at the 2009 International Cold Climate Wine Competition “ICCWC”, held on August 25 at the University of Minnesota’s Conference Center in Saint Paul, MN.

The Minnesota Governor’s Cup, a lovely large silver ice bucket, recognizes the “Best of Show” or top prize of all Minnesota gold winning wines. This is the first awarding of the impressive traveling trophy.

“Best of Show” awards went to Mac’s Creek Winery & Vineyards, NE, 2008 *Edelweiss* for Best White; Lincoln Peak Vineyard, VT, 2008 *Marquette* for Best Red; and Winehaven Winery and Vineyard, MN, 2007 *Slippery Slope White Ice Wine* for Best Specialty Wine & Fortified Wine.

The inaugural year’s competition included 315 Cold Climate wines from commercial wineries in 16 states including, Vermont, Pennsylvania, New York, West Virginia, New Hampshire and Connecticut in the east, Nebraska, Nevada, Montana and Wyoming in the west, and the Midwestern states of Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, Kentucky and host state Minnesota with 19 participating wineries.

Awards were based on blind tastings by 15 expert judges from Minnesota and several other states. Judges included prominent wine writers, restaurateurs, retailers, and wine educators. Three-judge panels determined the initial awards, with the top-scoring Best of Show wines evaluated by five-judge panels and all 15 judges for the Minnesota Governor’s Cup award.

The ICCWC is a three way partnership between the Minnesota Grape Growers Association, the Minnesota State Fair and the University of Minnesota, the latter of which developed several of the cold-hardy grapes used to make the wines in the competition. It is coordinated by Gordon Rouse, AWS Certified Judge, of the Minnesota Grape Growers Association, “MGGA”.

The competition is open to commercial wineries meeting the criteria for cold-hardy grape or fruit content. In 2009, a total of 4 Double Gold, 28 Gold, 60 Silver, and 105 Bronze medals were awarded. In addition, “Best of Show” designations were awarded to wines rated as the finest in various areas. Double Gold medals require unanimity among a panel’s judges that a wine deserves a Gold medal, whereas Gold medals require a majority vote.

The following wines were awarded Double Gold medals: Lincoln Peak Vineyard 2008 *La Crescent*; Lincoln Peak Vineyard 2008 *Marquette*; Mac's Creek Winery & Vineyards 2008 *Edelweiss*; Saint Croix Vineyards 2007 *Marechal Foch*.

The following wines were awarded Gold medals: 5 Trails Winery *Frontenac*; Bauer-Kearns Winery LLC *Driftless White*; Cannon River Winery *Sogn Blanc*; Carlos Creek Winery *Apple*; Danish Countryside Vines & Winery *Maid Of The Harbor*; Falconer Vineyards and Winery 2007 *Frontenac Reserve Red Wing Port*; Fieldstone Vineyards Inc. 2008 *Marquette*; Fresh Tracks Farm Vineyard & Winery 2006 *Frontenac Gris*; Hinterland Vineyards *Frontenac Gris*; Hinterland Vineyards *Happy Creek Red*; Hinterland Vineyards *La Crescent*; Lincoln Peak Vineyard *La Crescent Late Harvest*; Mac's Creek Winery & Vineyards *Celtic Aire*; Millner Heritage Vineyard & Winery *Little Iza*; Rose Bank Winery *Rose Bank Niagara*; Rose Bank Winery *Rose Bank Raspberry Secret*; Saint Croix Vineyards 2008 *Frontenac Gris*; Saint Croix Vineyards *Raspberry Infusion*; Saint Croix Vineyards 2008 *Marquette*; Sandhill Crane Vineyards *Raspberry*; Seven Hawks Vineyards 2008 *Prairie Star*; Seven Hawks Vineyards 2008 *Marquette*; Shelburne Vineyard, LLC 2008 *Marquette*; Tahoe Ridge Winery-Buffalo Creek 2008 *St. Croix*; White Rabbit Vineyards & Winery *Dust Bunnies*; Winehaven Winery and Vineyard *Frontenac*; Winehaven Winery and Vineyard 2007 *Slippery Slope White Ice Wine*; and Winehaven Winery and Vineyard *Strawberry-Rhubarb*.

The winning wines will be on display at the MGGA booth at the 2009 Minnesota State Fair August 27 through September 8.

Complete results of the 2009 ICCWC are posted at www.iccwc.org.

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International Cold Climate Wine Competition Judges

Bradley Beam

Enology Specialist, University of Illinois

Jenny Breen

Co-Owner, Good Life Catering, Minneapolis, MN

Paul Gospodarczyk

Enology Instructor, Des Moines Area Community College, Des Moines, Iowa

Michael Grabner

Wine Buyer, Century Wine & Spirits in Chanhassen, MN

Dan Keyport

Owner, Dolce Vita Wine Shop, Chaska, MN

Kristen Kowalski

Sommelier, Co-Owner of The Wine Market, and Sage Market and Wine Bar, Mendota Heights, MN

Dave Kuennen

Owner, BrightWines Wine Shop, North Saint Paul, MN

Richard Leahy

East Coast Editor, Vineyard & Winery Management, Program Director, Wineries Unlimited, International Eastern Wine Competition, Charlottesville, Pennsylvania

Anna Katharine Mansfield

Assistant Professor of Enology, Cornell University, Geneva, New York

Bob Parke

Co-author of Northern Winework, Stillwater, MN

Annette Peters

Import Manager, World Class Wines, Eden Prairie, MN

Tom Plocher

Grape breeder, Co-author of Northern Winework, Hugo, MN

Nick Smith

Associate Scientist, University of Minnesota, Chanhassen, MN

Jim Trezise

President New York Wine & Grape Foundation, Canandaigua, NY

Bill Ward

Wine Writer, Minneapolis Star Tribune, Minneapolis, MN