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For Immediate Release

### **Lake County Wine Awards Competition Announces Sweepstakes, Best of Class & Gold Wines**

On July 27 – 29, 2011, a panel of expert judges convened at Brassfield Estate Winery in Clearlake Oaks, California to judge more than 180 Lake County wines during the Third Annual Lake County Wine Awards Competition.

In order to qualify for the competition, wines must have a minimum of 75 per cent Lake County grapes with a Lake County AVA on the label.

Ray Johnson, Director of Sonoma State University's Wine Business Institute and Assistant Director of the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition served as director of the competition.

“A wine competition like this one helps to shed light on the great wine being produced in Lake County,” says Johnson. “It introduces the consumer to a variety of wines they may not yet be aware of.”

The prestigious panel of wine experts hailed from across the country with backgrounds spanning the breadth of the wine industry, including winemakers, educators, and writers in both print and electronic media.

Participating in the judging were John Buechsenstein, Randy Caparoso, Joe Roberts, Deborah Parker Wong, Shauna Rosenblum, Tina Caputo, Mike Dunne, Martha Dunne, Don Neel, Pamela Heiligenthal, Marc Hinton, Virginie Boone, and Clark Smith.

The judges were split into two panels, with the blind tastings facilitated by local sommelier Stephanie Green of Focused on Wine and Glenn McGourty, Winegrowing and Plant Science Advisor for the University of California Cooperative Extension Offices in Lake and Mendocino County. McGourty was assisted by sommelier Sheila Taylor of San Jose, and local wine enthusiasts Mireya Turner and Christiane Skarada served as scribes for the panels.

After the competition was complete, panel judge Deborah Parker Wong remarked that Lake County wines are worthy of worldwide recognition.

“I think more people should know about the value and quality of the wines produced here in Lake County. The wines here are certainly not well enough known across the United States and the world,” said Wong.

All entries were blind-tasted and evaluated using a tri-level medal system. The judges’ top picks (up to three winners per varietal/category) will advance to the public wine judging, the People’s Choice Wine Competition, which will take place on November 5, 2011 at Langtry Estate & Vineyards in Middletown, California.

Award winning wines will also be featured on August 20, 2011 at the *Wines with Altitude* event at The Winery SF from 1 PM – 5 PM on Treasure Island in San Francisco. Go to [www.lakecowineawards.org](http://www.lakecowineawards.org) or [www.lakecountywineries.org](http://www.lakecountywineries.org) for more information.

Event organizers especially wish to acknowledge Jerry Brassfield and his staff for their hospitality and generosity in hosting the three-day event at Brassfield Estate Winery, as well as a host of committed volunteers who made the event possible.

The competition committee would like to recognize key sponsors who made this event possible--the Lake County Winegrape Growers, American Ag Credit and Ag Unlimited—and thank numerous wineries, businesses and individuals for their support of the 2011 competition.

The overall Sweepstakes winner in each of the categories of white, rose, red, and dessert wines was announced at the close of the competition.

A total of 105 wines were honored with Sweepstakes, Best of Class, Gold or Silver medals at the close of the 2011 Lake County Wine Awards Competition.

For complete competition results and more information on the competition director, judges and venues at which to taste these award winning Lake County wines, visit [www.lakecowineawards.org](http://www.lakecowineawards.org).

## **PRESENTING... THE 2011 WINE AWARDS COMPETITION RESULTS**

### **The Sweepstakes Winners:**

White wines: Shooting Star 2010 Sauvignon Blanc

Rose wines: Ceago Vinegarden 2010 Estate Grown Syrah Rose, Del Lago

Red wines: Chacewater 2009 Syrah, Red Hills

Dessert wines: Ceago Vinegarden 2010 Muscat Canelli

### **Best of Class:**

Six Sigma Ranch 2009 Sauvignon Blanc, Michael's Vineyard

Shannon Ridge 2010 Chardonnay

Gregory Graham 2009 Viognier, Bartolucci Vineyard

Brassfield Estate 2010 Pinot Grigio, High Serenity Ranch, High Valley

Writer's Block 2010 Roussanne

Shooting Star 2009 Riesling

Wildhurst Vineyards 2010 Orange Muscat

Gregory Graham 2007 Syrah, Crimson Hill Vineyard, Red Hills

Sol Rouge 2007 Gypsy Rouge

Steele Stymie 2007 Merlot, Founder's Reserve

Shooting Star 2009 Barbera

Steele Wines 2008 Cabernet Franc

Hawk and Horse 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon, Red Hills

Dusinberre Cellars 2007 Petite Verdot

Writer's Block 2009 Tempranillo

Chacewater 2008 O-Eight Headache, Red Hills

Shannon Ridge 2008 Zinfandel, Two-Bud Block/Home Ranch High Valley

Tulip Hill 2009 Petite Sirah, Canino Ridge Vineyard

**Gold Medals** were awarded to 11 wines in the following categories:

#### Sauvignon Blanc 100

Brassfield Estate 2010 Sauvignon Blanc, High Serenity Ranch, High Valley

Chacewater 2010 Sauvignon Blanc

Guenoc 2010 Sauvignon Blanc

#### Viognier 103

Steele Wines 2010 Viognier

#### Zinfandel/Primitivo 302

Rosa d'Oro 2009 Primitivo, Clear Lake

Steele Wines 2009 Zinfandel, Catfish Vineyard, Clear Lake

#### Barbera 303

High Valley Vineyards 2009 Barbera, High Valley

Petite Sirah 308

High Valley Vineyards 2009 Petite Sirah, High Valley  
Dusinberre Cellars 2007 Petite Sirah

Bordeaux Other Red Blends 316

Snows Lake 2005 Snows Lake Two, Red Hills

Muscat 400

Bonterra 2010 Muscat

**Silver Medals** were awarded to 72 Lake County competition wines:

Sauvignon Blanc 100

Wildhurst Vineyards 2010 Sauvignon Blanc  
The Girls in the Vineyard 2010 Sauvignon Blanc, Rooster Vineyard  
Gregory Graham 2009 Sauvignon Blanc, Rolling Knolls, Red Hills

Sauvignon Blanc 101

Six Sigma Ranch 2010 Sauvignon Blanc, Michael's Vineyard  
Vigilance 2010 Sauvignon Blanc, Red Hills  
Robledo Family Winery 2009 Sauvignon Blanc, Seven Brothers

Chardonnay 102

Glamazon Wines 2010 Chardonnay, Robinson Lake Vineyard  
Brassfield Estate 2009 Chardonnay, High Serenity Ranch, High Valley  
Ceago Vinegarden 2010 Chardonnay, Del Lago  
Cache Creek 2008 Chardonnay  
Wildhurst Vineyards 2009 Chardonnay  
Chacewater 2010 Chardonnay  
Wildhurst Vineyards 2010 Chardonnay  
Guenoc 2010 Chardonnay  
Langtry Estate 2010 Chardonnay, Genevieve, Guenoc Valley

Viognier 103

Sol Rouge 2009 Viognier

Riesling 104

Chacewater 2010 Riesling  
Bonterra 2010 Riesling  
Tulip Hill 2010 Riesling, Amber View Vineyards

Muscat 105

Ceago Vinegarden 2010 Muscat Canelli, Winemaker's Selection

Other White Varietals and Blends 109

Sol Rouge 2008 Gypsy Blanc  
Cougar's Leap Winery 2010 Wildcat White, Black Rock Ranch, Red Hills

Rose 200

Gregory Graham 2009 Rose, Crimson Hill Vineyard, Red Hills

Pinot Noir 300

Six Sigma Ranch 2010 Pinot Noir, Christian's Vineyard  
Brassfield Estate 2010 Pinot Noir, High Serenity Ranch, High Valley  
Six Sigma Ranch 2009 Pinot Noir, Christian's Vineyard

Zinfandel 301

Writer's Block 2008 Zinfandel

Zinfandel 302

Sol Rouge 2008 Zinfandel  
Tyler Florence 2008 Zinfandel, Old Vine Zin—HooDoo Creek Vineyard  
Cougar's Leap Winery 2008 Zinfandel, Black Rock Ranch, Red Hills  
Brassfield Estate 2009 Zinfandel, Volcano Ridge, High Valley  
Shed Horn Cellars 2009 Zinfandel

Barbera 303

Shannon Ridge 2008 Barbera, Terre Vermeille, High Valley

Italian Red Varietals and Blends 304

Rosa d'Oro 2009 Sangiovese, Roumigiuiere Vineyards, Clear Lake

Syrah/Shiraz 305

Shooting Star 2008 Syrah  
Writer's Block 2008 Syrah  
Cameron Hughes 2009 Shiraz, Lot 224

Syrah/Shiraz 306

Moore Family Winery 2008 Syrah, Syrah's Vineyard, Red Hills  
Steele Stymie 2006 Syrah, Founder's Reserve

Petite Sirah 307

Writer's Block 2008 Petite Sirah

Petite Sirah 308

Sol Rouge 2008 Petite Sirah  
Beaver Creek 2007 Petite Sirah, Home Ranch  
Cache Creek 2007 Petite Sirah  
Shed Horn Cellars 2008 Petite Sirah  
Wildhurst Vineyards 2009 Petite Sirah  
Vigilance 2009 Petite Sirah

Guenoc 2009 Petite Sirah  
Langtry Estate 2007 Petite Sirah

Grenache 309

Writer's Block 2009 Grenache

Merlot 311

Shooting Star 2008 Merlot  
Steele Wines 2009 Merlot  
Wildhurst Vineyards 2008 Merlot

Cabernet Sauvignon 312

Shooting Star 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon  
Wildhurst Vineyards 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon

Cabernet Sauvignon 313

Bullion Creek Vineyards 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon, Gails Vineyard  
Six Sigma Ranch 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon  
High Valley Vineyards 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon, High Valley  
Beaver Creek 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon, Home Ranch  
Sol Rouge 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon  
Cache Creek 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon  
Noggle Winery 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon  
Vigilance 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon, Red Hills  
Langtry Estate 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon, Tephra

Cabernet Franc 314

Writer's Block 2008 Cabernet Franc

Malbec 315

Writer's Block 2009 Malbec

Bordeaux Other Red Blends 316

Snows Lake 2006 Snows Lake Two, Red Hills

Tempranillo 317

Writer's Block 2008 Tempranillo  
Robledo Family Winery 2009 Tempranillo, Seven Brothers

All Other Rd Varietals and Blends 318

Brassfield Estate 2009 Eruption, Volcano Ridge, High Valley  
Shannon Ridge 2008 Wrangler Red  
Vigilance 2009 Cimarron

Sweet Red Wines 401

Guenoc 2007 Petite Sirah Port, Serpentine Meadow, Guenoc Valley