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 or 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.
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 Vermielle, High Valley

**Italian Red Varietals and Blends 304**
Rosa d’Oro 2009 Sangiovese, Roumiguier 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