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**TEXAS WINES COWBOY UP TO WINES FROM AROUND THE WORLD IN 2008
HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO INTERNATIONAL WINE
COMPETITION**

AUSTIN, TEXAS – Dec. 4, 2007 – Texas wines came out of the chute strong at the fifth annual Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ International Wine Competition, held Nov. 10-11 at Reliant Center. This year, the competition — known for awarding its popular prize saddles, belt buckles and chaps rather than traditional wine medals — attracted 1,969 entries from 606 wineries in 16 countries around the world. In total, 1,544 medals were awarded by 15 panels of judges, including local, national and international wine experts.

Of those medals, 60 [Texas wines](#) received Champion, Reserve Champion and Texas Champion awards. Texas is the nation's fifth-largest wine-producing state with more than 130 wineries in operation contributing approximately \$1 billion to Texas' economy.

“The [Texas wine industry](#) should be extremely proud of its outstanding performance against very challenging competition,” said Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples. “Texas wines more than doubled their success in this year's competition over last year. Once again, these awards let consumers know premium-quality, world-class wines are being made right here in the Lone Star State.”

Brennan Vineyards 2006 Viognier won Double Gold Reserve Champion and Texas Champion honors at the 2008 competition, as well as the title of Top Texas Wine for the very first time. Messina Hof Winery in Bryan has won Top Texas Wine for the past four years.

Other Texas wineries awarded Gold Champion and Gold Reserve Champion were:

- Bruno & George Candlelight Strawberry Wine: Gold Reserve Champion
- Bruno & George Yellow Jacket Raspberry Wine: Gold Champion
- Cap*Rock Winery Amarone Della Valpolicella DOC 2003: Gold Champion
- Haak Vineyards and Winery Blue Label SemiSweet Blanc du Bois 2006: Gold Champion, Texas Gold Champion
- Llano Estacado Winery 2005 Cellar Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon: Texas Gold Champion
- Messina Hof Paulo Meritage 2002: Texas Gold Champion
- Messina Hof Riesling Father & Son Cuvee 2006: Texas Gold Champion

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Buckles, chaps and saddles will be awarded to all champions at the Rodeo Uncorked! Roundup and Best Bites Competition 7 p.m. Feb. 18, 2008. Additionally, all champion wines will be auctioned at the Rodeo Uncorked! Champion Wine Auction and Dinner 8 p.m. March 8, 2008.

All proceeds benefit youth, support education and facilitate better agricultural practices through exhibitions and presentation. The 2007 auction brought in \$775,500, with the Grand Champion Best of Show Wine selling for \$125,000. From 2004-2007, the auctions have raised a total of \$2,599,000.

Below is a complete list of the 2008 Texas winners:

Wine	Medal	Award
Brennan Vineyards Viognier, 2006	Double Gold	Top Texas Wine, Reserve Champion and Texas Champion
Bruno & George Candlelight Strawberry Wine	Gold	Reserve Champion
Bruno & George Yellow Jacket Raspberry Wine	Gold	Champion
Cap*Rock Amarone Della Valpolicella DOC, 2003	Gold	Champion
Haak Blue Label SemiSweet Blanc du Bois, 2006	Gold	Champion and Texas Champion
Llano Estacado Winery Cellar Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, 2005	Gold	Texas Champion
Messina Hof Paulo Meritage, 2002	Gold	Texas Champion
Messina Hof Riesling Father & Son Cuvee, 2006	Gold	Texas Champion
Bruno & George OTS Raisin Wine	Silver	Champion
Flat Creek Estate Travis Peak Select Muscato D'Arancia, 2006	Silver	Texas Champion
KE Cellars Syrah, 4 You, 2005	Silver	Texas Champion
Kiepersol Estates Cabernet Sauvignon, 2005	Silver	Texas Reserve Champion
LightCatcher Cabernet Sauvignon, 2004	Silver	Texas Champion
LightCatcher Texas Kiss Merlot Rose, 2006	Silver	Champion and Texas Champion
Llano Estacado Winery Chardonnay, 2006	Silver	Texas Champion
Llano Estacado Winery Signature Rhone Texas Rhone Style Red, 2006	Silver	Texas Champion
Llano Estacado Winery Viviano Super Tuscan Style Red, 2004	Silver	Texas Champion
Messina Hof Barrel Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, 2005	Silver	Texas Champion
Messina Hof Barrel Reserve Zinfandel, 2006	Silver	Texas Champion
Messina Hof Private Reserve Shiraz, 2005	Silver	Texas Reserve Champion
Peregrine Hill Chardonnay, 2006	Silver	Texas Reserve Champion
Piney Woods Country Winery & Vineyards	Silver	Texas Champion

Blueberry Wine		
Piney Woods Country Winery & Vineyards Light Amber Port	Silver	Champion and Texas Champion
Pleasant Hill Winery Collina Bianca	Silver	Texas Champion
Torre di Pietra Malbec, 2005	Silver	Texas Champion
Becker Vineyards Cabernet Franc Reserve, 2005	Bronze	Texas Reserve Champion
Becker Vineyards Chenin Blanc, 2006	Bronze	Texas Reserve Champion
Becker Vineyards Claret Les Trois Dames, 2005	Bronze	Texas Reserve Champion
Cap*Rock Blush Royale Rose of Ruby Cabernet	Bronze	Texas Champion
Flat Creek Estate Muscato Blanco, 2006	Bronze	Texas Reserve Champion
Flat Creek Estate Super Texan, Sangiovese, 2005	Bronze	Texas Champion
Haak Green Label Dry Blanc du Bois, 2005	Bronze	Texas Reserve Champion
Haak Malbec, 2005	Bronze	Texas Reserve Champion
Inwood Estates Vineyards Cornelious, 2005	Bronze	Texas Reserve Champion
Inwood Estates Vineyards Tempranillo-Cabernet, 2004	Bronze	Texas Champion
LightCatcher Etain's Rose Merlot Rose, 2006	Bronze	Texas Reserve Champion
Llano Estacado Winery Cabernet Sauvignon, 2005	Bronze	Texas Reserve Champion
Llano Estacado Winery Cabernet-Shiraz, 2005	Bronze	Texas Champion
Llano Estacado Winery Cellar Reserve Chardonnay, 2005	Bronze	Texas Champion
Llano Estacado Winery Cellar Select Port	Bronze	Reserve Champion and Texas Reserve Champion
Llano Estacado Winery Chenin Blanc, 2006	Bronze	Texas Champion
Llano Estacado Winery Merlot, 2005	Bronze	Texas Champion
Llano Estacado Winery Signature Red, 2005	Bronze	Texas Champion
Messina Hof Barrel Reserve Cabernet Franc, 2005	Bronze	Texas Champion
Messina Hof Barrel Reserve Merlot, 2005	Bronze	Texas Reserve Champion
Messina Hof Barrel Reserve Shiraz, 2005	Bronze	Texas Champion
Messina Hof Chenin Blanc, 2006	Bronze	Texas Champion
Messina Hof Gewurztraminer, 2006	Bronze	Texas Champion
Messina Hof Ivory	Bronze	Texas Champion
Messina Hof Late Harvest Angel, 2006	Bronze	Texas Reserve Champion
Messina Hof Merrill's Vineyard Late Harvest, 2006	Bronze	Texas Champion
Messina Hof Merrill's Vineyard Private Reserve, 2006	Bronze	Texas Champion
Messina Hof Paulo Cabernet Sauvignon,	Bronze	Texas Reserve Champion

2005		
Messina Hof Paulo Shiraz, 2005	Bronze	Texas Champion
Messina Hof Riesling Father & Son Cuvee Merrill's Vineyard, 2006	Bronze	Texas Reserve Champion
Messina Hof Tawny Port, 2004	Bronze	Texas Champion
Peregrine Hill Pinot Noir, 2006	Bronze	Texas Champion
Piney Woods Country Winery & Vineyards Tawny Port	Bronze	Texas Reserve Champion
Sandstone Cellars III, 2006	Bronze	Texas Champion
Val Verde Winery Muscat Canelli, 2006	Bronze	Texas Champion

For more information about Texas wines and Show winners, call the Texas Department of Agriculture at (866) 4TX-WINE or visit www.gotexanwine.org.

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