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TEXAS WINES WIN TOP AWARDS IN 2010 WINE COMPETITIONS

AUSTIN, Texas – July 19, 2010 – As contenders among thousands of the world’s best international and American wines, Texas wines stood tall and won top awards at some of Texas’ largest international wine competitions in 2010.

“Texas continues to earn more and more prestigious recognition at these competitions each year, and the industry should be incredibly proud of that,” said Robert Champion, state coordinator for wine marketing at the Texas Department of Agriculture. “These awards are proof of the hard work and dedication of Texas grape growers and winemakers who continue to push the Texas wine industry forward.”

Taking top honors in 2010 at five international wine competitions held in Houston, Dallas and San Antonio are:

- Becker Vineyards 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve, Wilmeth Vineyard – Best of Show Red Wine (San Antonio Wine Festival)
- Becker Vineyards 2008 Fleur Sauvage – Class Champion and Texas Class Champion (Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo International Wine Competition)
- Becker Vineyards 2008 Barbera, Peter’s Prairie Vineyard – Texas Grand Star (Lone Star International Wine Competition)
- Becker Vineyards 2009 Clementine Late Harvest Viognier, Bingham Family Vineyards – Texas Grand Star (Lone Star International Wine Competition)
- Flat Creek Estate Mistella NV – Top Texas Wine and Texas Class Champion (Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo International Wine Competition)
- Georgetown Winery Lone Star Frost NV – Grand Star (Lone Star International Wine Competition)
- Grape Creek Vineyards 2007 Serendipity – Texas Class Champion (Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo International Wine Competition)
- Grape Creek Vineyards 2009 Viognier, Lost Draw Vineyards – Texas Grand Star (Lone Star International Wine Competition)
- McPherson Cellars 2009 Rosé of Syrah – Grand Star (Lone Star International Wine Competition)
- McPherson Cellars dbx 2007 – Reserve Class Champion (Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo International Wine Competition)
- Messina Hof Winery – Best of Herd Award (San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo)
- Messina Hof 2005 Papa Paulo Port Private Reserve – Texas Grand Star (Lone Star International Wine Competition)
- Messina Hof Winery 2008 Chenin Blanc – People’s Choice Grand Champion White Wine (San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo)
- Sunset Winery 2005 “Vintner’s Select” Orange Muscat, Newsom Vineyard – Texas Class Champion (Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo International Wine Competition)

Lone Star International Wine Competition judge and noted wine blogger of [The Wine Curmudgeon](#) Jeff Siegel made an interesting observation about this year's competition:

"What's important to note is that the Texas wines that won golds – which included a Barbera from Becker Vineyards in the Hill Country and a Tempranillo blend from Llano Estacado in West Texas – are excellent examples of what Texas can do with grapes that aren't Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Chardonnay," Siegel said. "Diversity is part of the future of Texas wine, and it's good to see these wines rewarded for their efforts in helping Texas wine secure its future."

Home to more than 280 family-owned vineyards that cover 2,500 acres and more than 180 wineries, Texas is the fifth-largest wine-producing state in the nation. The Texas wine industry contributes approximately \$1.35 billion a year to the state's economy and supports more than 9,000 jobs for Texans. Current wine production is estimated to be 2.4 million gallons per year and growing annually with 95 percent of this wine consumed in the Lone Star State.

Please see attached for a list of top Texas winners in 2010. For more information about Texas wines and a complete list of competition winners, visit www.gotexanwine.org.

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