



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Virginia Wine Board Marketing Office

Contact: Annette Boyd

Phone: 804-402-1896

Email: Annette.Boyd@Virginiawine.org

Virginia Wineries Association Announces 2021 Governor's Cup® Gold Medalists

Nearly 100 Wines Awarded Gold Medal Distinction, New Cider Category Introduced in Acclaimed Wine Competition

Richmond, Va. (March 2, 2021) – The Virginia Wineries Association is honored to announce that 96 Virginia wines from 47 different wineries have been awarded gold medals in the 2021 Governor's Cup® Wine Competition. Originating in 1982, the Virginia Governor's Cup® is one of the most stringent wine competitions in the U.S.

Over the past four weeks, a panel of world-class judges have blind sampled and scored a record 544 wines that were submitted in this year's competition. Wines awarded gold medals received a score of 90 or higher on a 100-point score range and are deemed "Outstanding" by the judges.

A testament to Virginia's diverse terroirs and grape varieties grown in the Commonwealth, the gold medal winners include wines made from over 20 varietals produced across Virginia's distinct winegrowing regions. With an increase in gold medal winners from last year's competition, statistics from the 2021 Governor's Cup® gold medal winners include:

Location	
Central VA	59 Golds
Chesapeake Bay	2 Golds
Hampton Roads	9 Golds
Northern VA	17 Golds
Shenandoah Valley	9 Golds

Vintage	
2014	2 Golds
2015	8 Golds
2016	10 Golds
2017	35 Golds
2018	5 Golds
2019	29 Golds
2020	7 Golds

Top Varietals	
Meritage (Blends)	19.79%
Cabernet Franc	11.46%
Petit Verdot	11.46%
Chardonnay	8.33%
Mead	6%
Tannat	6%

In recent years, Virginia wineries have cultivated more unexpected varietals in the region, such as Tannat and Petit Verdot. These grapes are well-represented among gold medal winners, indicating that experimentation in Virginia’s vineyards has proven fruitful. Bordeaux-style blends and hearty reds are stalwarts in the Virginia wine landscape and received the most gold medals in this year’s competition. A number of white wine varieties such as Chardonnay, Petit Manseng and Sauvignon Blanc rounded out the gold medal winners, for a diverse list taking center stage in Virginia’s booming wine industry.

Of the gold medal winning wines, the 12 wines that receive the highest scores will comprise the Governor’s Cup Case®, showcasing the best wines in the Commonwealth. The wine scored highest will be awarded the grand prize of the Governor’s Cup, which will be announced in a virtual celebration on March 9, 2021.

Virginia cider, a fast-growing segment of the Virginia agricultural industry, now has its own category in the Governor’s Cup Competition. Judges for the new “Best in Show Cider” award were selected based on their passion, experience and understanding of the category, and will award their favorite of 27 ciders that were entered.

The esteemed panel of judges was directed by Jay Youmans – one of only 53 Masters of Wine (MW) in the U.S. – who has overseen the competition for ten years. “The decade I’ve spent working with the Governor’s Cup Competition is evidence of the great evolution we’ve seen in Virginia’s wine industry – this year’s gold medal winners are nothing short of impressive. Awarding such a diverse range of wines and introducing a cider category showcases the transformation of the industry, and I’m proud to see the hard work of these winemakers pay off,” said Youmans.

Virginia’s vibrant wine industry – a 400-year-old “experiment” – has made it a significant agricultural sector in the state. Today, over 300 wineries in Virginia cultivate over 4,200 acres of grapes, making it the sixth-largest wine region in the U.S. The Virginia Wineries Association’s Governor’s Cup® Competition is done in partnership with the Virginia Wine Board and the Virginia Vineyards Association. Both the Governor’s Cup Competition and the resulting Governor’s Cup Case boost the visibility of the Virginia wine region through various marketing programs and exposure to top wine critics and tastemakers.

About the Governor’s Cup Competition

The judging panel ranks each wine based on a [unified scoring system](#). Any wine made from 100% Virginia fruit is eligible for the Governor’s Cup® Competition (ciders, fruit wines and meads have their own categories). Entries must include an affidavit with a certification of 100% Virginia fruit and vineyard particulars, including grower names and location, as well as information on alcohol, acidity or basicity

(pH) and residual sugar. The Governor's Cup competition is a partnership among the gubernatorial-appointed Virginia Wine Board (VWB), the Virginia Vineyards Association (VVA), and the Virginia Wineries Association (VWA), which owns and manages the competition.

The Virginia Governor's Cup® award winners will be announced during a live premiere on Virginia Wine's [Facebook](#) on March 9 at 7 p.m.

For interviews and photo requests, please contact Annette Boyd at 804.402.1896 or Annette.Boyd@Virginianwine.org.

For more information about the Governor's Cup or events, tours and tastings, please visit the Virginia Wine Marketing Office's website at <http://www.virginianwine.org/> or email information@virginianwine.org.

2021 Governor's Cup® Gold Medalists

Winery	Wine	Vintage
Afton Mountain Vineyards	Cabernet Franc	2017
Albemarle CiderWorks	Harrison	2018
Albemarle CiderWorks	Pomme Mary	2019
Barboursville Vineyards	Octagon	2017
Barboursville Vineyards	Octagon	2016
Barboursville Vineyards	Paxxito	2017
Barboursville Vineyards	Paxxito	2015
Barboursville Vineyards	Sauvignon Blanc Reserve	2019
Barboursville Vineyards	Vermentino Reserve	2019
Barren Ridge Vineyards	Meritage	2015
Blue Bee Cider	Firecracker	2019
Bluestone Vineyard	Chardonnay	2017
Bluestone Vineyard	Merlot	2014
Bluestone Vineyard	Petit Manseng	2019
Breaux Vineyards	Meritage	2016
Breaux Vineyards	Nebbiolo	2016
Breaux Vineyards	Sauvignon Blanc	2019
Carriage House Wineworks	Petit Verdot	2019
Cave Ridge Vineyard	Red Silk Barrel Select Cabernet Franc	2017

Chestnut Oak Vineyard	Petit Manseng	2017
Chisholm Vineyards	Chambourcin	2019
CrossKeys Vineyards	Petit Verdot	2017
Cunningham Creek Winery	Estate Petit Verdot	2017
Cunningham Creek Winery	Meritage	2017
Delaplane Cellars	Tannat	2017
Delfosse Vineyards and Winery	Petit Verdot Reserve	2017
Delfosse Vineyards and Winery	Screaming Hawk Meritage	2017
DuCard Vineyards	Triskele	2017
Early Mountain	Cabernet Franc	2019
Early Mountain	Capstone Vineyard Cabernet Franc	2019
Early Mountain	Eluvium	2017
Early Mountain	Five Forks	2019
Fifty-Third Winery and Vineyard	Vidal Blanc	2019
Gadino Cellars	Petit Verdot	2017
Greenhill Vineyards	Chardonnay Reserve	2019
Honah Lee Vineyard	Petit Verdot	2017
Horton Vineyards	Petit Verdot Private Reserve	2016
Horton Vineyards	Tannat	2015
Ingleside Vineyards	Albariño	2019
Ingleside Vineyards	Chardonnay Reserve	2018
Jefferson Vineyards	Cabernet Franc	2019
Jefferson Vineyards	Jefferson's Own Estate Reserve	2016
Jefferson Vineyards	Viognier	2019
Keswick Vineyards	Estate Reserve Cabernet Franc	2019
Keswick Vineyards	Heritage Estate Reserve	2017
King Family Vineyards	Loreley	2017
King Family Vineyards	Mountain Plains	2017

Lake Anna Winery	Petit Verdot	2017
Lost Boy Cider	Comeback Kid	2020
Michael Shaps	Cabernet Franc	2017
Michael Shaps	Chardonnay	2018
Michael Shaps	Chardonnay	2017
Michael Shaps	Chardonnay	2016
Michael Shaps	Meritage	2017
Michael Shaps	Meritage	2015
Michael Shaps	Petit Manseng	2019
Michael Shaps	Raisin d'Etre White	2015
Michael Shaps	Roussanne	2019
Michael Shaps	Tannat	2016
Muse Vineyards	Clio	2017
Narmada Winery	Melange	2017
Narmada Winery	Yash-Vir	2016
October One Vineyard	Cabernet Franc	2019
Paradise Springs Winery	Apres Rosé	2018
Pippin Hill Farm & Vineyards	Easton Blue	2017
Pippin Hill Farm & Vineyards	Easton Blue	2015
Pippin Hill Farm & Vineyards	Zero White	2019
Pollak Vineyards	Meritage	2015
Pollak Vineyards	Meritage	2017
Pollak Vineyards	Mille Fleurs	2017
R.A.H Wine Co.	Series 1	2017
Rockbridge Vineyard	DeChiel Chardonnay	2018
Shenandoah Vineyards	Reserve Red	2017
Silver Hand Meadery	All Blues	2020
Silver Hand Meadery	Black Velvet	2020
Silver Hand Meadery	Dream By The Fire	2020
Silver Hand Meadery	Raspberry Passion	2020

Silver Hand Meadery	Soak up the Sun	2020
Silver Hand Meadery	Strawberry Swing	2020
Stinson Vineyards	Tannat	2017
Thatch Winery	Block 8 Tannat	2017
Thatch Winery	Merlot - Mount Juliet Farm Vineyard	2019
The Williamsburg Winery	Petit Verdot Reserve	2017
The Winery at Bull Run	Barrel Select Viognier	2019
The Winery at Bull Run	Cabernet Franc Reserve	2019
The Winery at Bull Run	Petit Manseng	2019
The Winery at Bull Run	Reconciliation	2019
Trump Winery	Brut Reserve	2014
Upper Shirley Vineyards	Tannat	2016
Upper Shirley Vineyards	Zachariah	2016
Veritas Winery	Cabernet Franc Reserve	2017
Veritas Winery	Petit Verdot	2017
Veritas Winery	Sauvignon Blanc	2019
Veritas Winery	Scintilla	2015
Veritas Winery	The Momentarius Collection Monticello White Blend	2019
Walsh Family Wine	Dutchman's Creek Cabernet Franc	2019

About Virginia Wine

You can learn a lot about our wine just by looking at a map: Virginia sits halfway between Europe and California and our wines embody this unique position in the world. They are lush but structured; aromatic, expressive and beautifully balanced - blending the subtlety of the Old World with the boldness of the new. Like perfect French spoken with a slight southern drawl. Home to 312 wineries across ten wine regions and seven American Viticultural areas (AVAs), most Virginia wineries are family owned; the average size of a winery is 12.8 acres. This means Virginia wines aren't massproduced - they are local, artisanal and tell a story shaped by Virginia's diverse landscape and unpredictable conditions.

###