

PINEHURST NEWS

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PINEHURST ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 2008 FESTIVAL FOCUS WINE COMPETITION

VILLAGE OF PINEHURST, N.C. (September 10, 2008) - Pinehurst's second annual Wine Competition yielded winners from Chile to California – and a surprising gold medal from its own state of North Carolina.

Eighteen wines in total received gold and silver medals in the competition that was held in late August, the first day of its 20th Anniversary Food and Wine Festival. Forty-five judges were present to independently judge a total of 75 wines in nine separate categories.

Varietal types included in the 2008 judging included Pinot Grigio and Sauvignon Blanc in the white division and Cabernet and Pinot Noir in the red division. Subcategories of premium (wines ranging in retail price value between \$7.50 and \$13.99 per bottle), super premium (\$14 - \$20) and prestige (\$21 - \$50) defined each flight.

The Pinot Grigio category was dominated by Italian varietals, and New Zealand Sauvignon Blancs clearly stole the show with judges. But American varietals from California, Washington and Oregon took home the most medals in all red categories but one – Premium Cabernet, which went to North Carolina-based Biltmore Estate.

The complete list of winners in each category are as follows:

Premium Pinot Grigio

Gold Medal - Zonin, Venezia 2007 (Italy)

Silver Medal - Ca' Bolani, Friuli 2006 (Italy)

Premium Sauvignon Blanc

Gold Medal - Matua Valley, Marlborough 2007 (New Zealand)

Silver Medal - Monkey Bay, Marlborough 2007 (New Zealand)

Super Premium Sauvignon Blanc

Gold Medal - Drylands, Marlborough 2007 (New Zealand)

Silver Medal - Sherwood, Marlborough 2007 (New Zealand)

Premium Pinot Noir

Gold Medal - Montes Alpha 2006 (Chile)

Silver Medal - Greg Norman Wine Estates, Santa Barbara 2006 (California)

Super Premium Pinot Noir

Gold Medal - Clos du Bois, Reserve, Sonoma Coast 2005 (California)

Silver Medal - Rodney Strong, Russian River, 2006 (California)

Prestige Pinot Noir

Gold Medal - Witness Tree, Vintage Select, Willamette Valley 2006 (Oregon)

Silver Medal - Alexander Valley Vineyards 2006 (California)

Premium Cabernet

Gold Medal – Biltmore Estate, Reserve, North Carolina NV (North Carolina)

Silver Medal - Murphy-Goode, Alexander Valley, 2005 (California)

Super Premium Cabernet

Gold Medal - Columbia, Columbia Valley 2005 (Washington)

Silver Medal - Murphy-Goode, “Tara a Lago” 2004 (California)

Prestige Cabernet

Gold Medal - Sheridan, Reserve, Yakima Valley 2004 (Washington)

Silver Medal - Stag’s Leap Winery, Napa 2005 (California)

The competition was a double-blind tasting with electronic and hand scoring, verified and independently audited by an accountant prior to release of the results. Judges scored each wine based on gustatory (taste), visual, and olfactory (smell) factors for a total score in each flight. Each judge was verified as having no association with any wineries, distributors or industry experts with representation in the contest; and each judge could only vote on one flight for the competition.

Winners received awards at the Food and Wine Festival’s Opening Ceremonies on August 29, 2008. Each Gold Medal award winner will also be recognized on Pinehurst’s Master Wine List resortwide for an entire year.

The Pinehurst Food and Wine Festival is held annually each Labor Day weekend at the renowned Pinehurst Resort, featuring a series of seminars, culinary demonstrations, gala dining events and daily grand tastings featuring over 100 bottles from which to sample daily. An upscale boutique resort event, it draws the most top-rated wines in the world to over 500 guests each year. The four-day festival celebrated its 20th Anniversary in 2008 by presenting each overnight guest with a uniquely blended and privately labeled red wine, made at Franciscan Winery with festival leaders in June.

For more information, please contact the Pinehurst Food and Beverage Department at 910.235.8480.

About Pinehurst

Located in the North Carolina heartland, world-renowned Pinehurst Resort is a 2,000-acre historic property featuring spa, golf, tennis, family, events and leisure recreation. Built in 1895, it has hosted such international events as the U.S Open Golf Championship, U.S. Clay Court Tennis Championship, and the U.S. Kids Golf World Championship. It continues to receive numerous awards for its exceptional accommodations, dining, meeting and children-friendly offerings, including Best Golf Resort by the readers of *Travel + Leisure Golf* magazine for the third time in 2008, and the coveted Mobil Four-Star Spa recognition, the first facility so designated in the Southeast. See pinehurst.com for more.

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