



**VIRGINIA
WINE**



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Virginia Wine Board Marketing Office

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Virginia Wineries Association Announces 2019 Governor's Cup® Gold Medalists

Richmond, Va. (Feb. 15, 2019) – The Virginia Wineries Association Governor's Cup® Wine Competition judging is complete, with 68 Virginia wines awarded gold medals in the 2019 Virginia wine competition. Held over a four-week period during late January and early February, the competition, now in its 37th year, was revamped in 2012 to become one of the most stringent and thorough wine competitions in the country.

The gold medalists from this year's Governor's Cup were selected from 510 entries of both red and white wines, an increase of 15% from the number of 2018 entries. 102 different Virginia wineries submitted wines. Gold medal-winning wines scored a 90 or higher on a 100-point score range (a full list is included at the bottom of this release).

Gold medal winners come from across the state's winegrowing regions, underscoring the diverse landscapes and varied conditions that produce wines that embody the grace, grit and experimental spirit of Virginia Wine.

Blue Ridge	1 Gold
Central VA	40 Golds
Eastern VA	4 Golds
Northern VA	19 Golds
Shenandoah Valley	3 Golds
Southern VA	1 Gold

In addition, 69% of 2019 gold medal winners are red wines, many of which are red blends. Bordeaux-Style red blends are well established and account for continuous high acclaim throughout the Commonwealth.

While their blending percentages vary greatly across vineyards and vintages, the end products are lush and layered—built to age but ready-to-drink now.

The esteemed panel of judges was directed by Jay Youmans – one of only 51 Masters of Wine (MW) in the U.S. – who has overseen the competition for eight years. Commenting on this year’s entries, Jay Youmans said, “Every vintage is a new adventure, as shown in the overall quality of the wines, ciders, meads, and fruit wines. This year was perhaps the best ever. Not surprising were the over 100 outstanding red Bordeaux blends submitted. There was also a record of 50 Petit Verdots entered this year. Many of the judges commented on the high quality of the Cabernet Francs, Viogniers, Sparkling wines, dessert wines, Chardonnays and Petit Mansengs tasted.”

Virginia’s vibrant wine industry – a 400-year-old “experiment” – has made it a significant agricultural sector in the state. Today, there are nearly 300 wineries in Virginia that cultivate over 3,800 acres of grapes. Grape varieties like Viognier, Cabernet Franc, Petit Manseng and Petit Verdot—relative obscurities and bit-players in Old World wine traditions—are taking center stage in Virginia. 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.

Of the gold medal winning wines, 12 top scoring red and white wines will then comprise the Governor’s Cup Case® to showcase the state’s top wines. The highest scoring wine of the competition will be awarded the grand prize of the Governor’s Cup itself. The winner of the Governor’s Cup will be announced at the Virginia Governor’s Cup Gala on February 26, 2019; the other 11 wines that make the Governor’s Cup Case® will also be recognized. The gala is a private invitation-only event.

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.

For interviews and photo requests, please contact Annette Boyd at 802.402.1896 or Annette.Boyd@Virginawine.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.virginawine.org/> or call 804-344-8200.

2019 Governor's Cup Gold Medalists

Winery	Wine	Year
50 West Vineyards	Aldie Heights Cuvee	2015
Afton Mountain Vineyards	Tradition	2016
Barboursville Vineyards	Vermentino Reserve	2017
Barboursville Vineyards	Nebbiolo Reserve	2015
Barboursville Vineyards	Paxxito	2015
Barboursville Vineyards	Octagon	2014
Boxwood Estate Winery	Reserve	2015
Chestnut Oak Vineyard	Chestnut One	2016
Creek's Edge Winery	Cabernet Franc	2017
Delfosse Vineyards and Winery/Mountain and Vine	Deer Rock White	2017
Doukenie Winery	Vintner's Reserve 2016	2016
Early Mountain Vineyards	Quaker Run Cabernet Franc	2017
Early Mountain Vineyards	Eluvium	2016
Early Mountain Vineyards	Novum	2016
Early Mountain Vineyards	Eluvium	2015
Fabbioli Cellars	Tannat	2015
Gadino Cellars	Delfino Rosso	2015

Gadino Cellars	Nebbiolo	2013
Glass House Winery	Barbera	2017
Glen Manor Vineyards	Cabernet Franc	2015
Glen Manor Vineyards	St. Ruth	2015
Granite Heights Winery	Evening Serenade	2012
Granite Heights Winery	Lomax Reserve	2012
Gray Ghost Vineyards	Adieu	2017
Greenhill Winery and Vineyards	Chardonnay Reserve	2017
Horton Vineyards	Petit Manseng	2016
Jefferson Vineyards	Meritage	2016
Keswick Vineyards	Touriga Estate Reserve	2017
Keswick Vineyards	Signature Series Cab Franc	2016
King Family Vineyards	Mountain Plains	2016
King Family Vineyards	Mountain Plains	2015
King Family Vineyards	Loreley	2015
King Family Vineyards	Meritage	2016
Paradise Springs Winery	Meritage	2015
Paradise Springs Winery	PVT	2015
Potomac Point Vineyard and Winery	Richland Reserve Heritage	2017

Rockbridge Vineyard	V d'Or	2016
Sunset Hills Vineyard	Mosaic	2015
The Williamsburg Winery	Petite Fleur	2017
The Winery at Bull Run	Reconciliation	2016
Trump Winery	New World Reserve	2016
Trump Winery	Blanc de Blanc	2014
Trump Winery	Sparkling Rosé	2014
Trump Winery	Blanc de Noir	2014
Veritas Vineyard & Winery	Cabernet Franc	2017
Veritas Vineyard & Winery	VR	2016
Virginia Wineworks	Nicewonder Vineyards Viognier	2017
Virginia Wineworks	Pippin Hill Farm & Vineyards Cabernet Franc	2017
Virginia Wineworks	Shenandoah Vineyards Cabernet Franc	2017
Virginia Wineworks	The Barns at Hamilton Station Chardonnay	2017
Virginia Wineworks	Pippin Hill Farm & Vineyards Chardonnay Reserve	2017
Virginia Wineworks	Brix & Columns Vineyards White Brix	2017
Virginia Wineworks	Pippin Hill Farm & Vineyards Cannon Red	2017
Virginia Wineworks	Hamlet Vineyards Eltham	2016
Virginia Wineworks	Michael Shaps Raisin d'Etre White	2016

Virginia Wineworks	Michael Shaps Petit Manseng	2016
Virginia Wineworks	Michael Shaps L. Scott	2016
Virginia Wineworks	Brix & Columns Vineyards McGahey	2016
Virginia Wineworks	Michael Shaps Chardonnay	2016
Virginia Wineworks	General's Ridge Vineyard General's Reserve	2016
Virginia Wineworks	Michael Shaps Viognier	2016
Virginia Wineworks	Michael Shaps Tannat	2015
Virginia Wineworks	Michael Shaps Petit Verdot	2015
Virginia Wineworks	Michael Shaps Meritage	2015
Virginia Wineworks	Michael Shaps Chardonnay	2015
Virginia Wineworks	Michael Shaps L. Scott	2015
Virginia Wineworks	Upper Shirley Zachariah	2014
Virginia Wineworks	General's Ridge Vineyard Petit Verdot	2014

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