

CONGRATULATIONS TO MUSE VINEYARDS 2009 Clio is 2015 Governor's Cup Winner



(l. to r.) Secy of Agriculture Todd Haymore, Gov. & First Lady MacAuliffe, Robert and Sally Muse at Governor's Cup presentation.
Photo: Jay Paul

Governor Terry McAuliffe awarded the Virginia Wineries Association's 2015 Governor's Cup to **Muse Vineyards for their 2009 Clio**, a Bordeaux-style blended red wine. The Award was announced on February 24 in Richmond at the Governor's Cup Gala. Muse Vineyards is based in the Town of Woodstock in Shenandoah County.



Clio is a blend of 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Cabernet Franc, 25% Merlot, and 25% Petit Verdot. Winemaker Robert Muse, in consultation with Matthieu Finot of King Family Vineyards in Crozet, employed a non-interventionist approach to the fermentation, an option made possible by optimally ripe grapes from the 2009 vintage. Following destemming and a light crush, the Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc were fermented separately with daily punch-downs. The wine was racked directly into 50% new and 50% neutral French oak barrels where it aged for three years before its bottling.

The winemaker's tasting notes on the 2009 Clio are as follows: *Deep burgundy in color, this classically-styled Bordeaux blend presents a lovely complex nose with notes of ripe cherry, vanilla, black tea, nutmeg and leather. The wine is wide and steady on the palate with a fine tannin structure, balance and length. Decanted, it continues to open beautifully for at least an hour. It will mature nicely for five or more years.*

"The 2009 Clio is one of the first wines we produced from our vineyard," said owner Robert Muse. This wine is grown and produced solely at our estate. It is something that speaks to the geology of the Shenandoah Valley, to the weather unique to our land and to the methods employed in our vineyard.

The Governor's Cup award winner and the other 11 wines that make up the 2015 Governor's Cup Case, are the top 12 highest scoring wines chosen from 390 entries of both red and white wines, from 94 wineries.

In addition to Muse Vineyards' 2009 Clio, the other 11 wines in the 2015 Governor's Cup Case are:

- Cactocin Creek Winery - 2012 Meritage
- Cross Keys Vineyards - 2013 Touriga
- Delfosse Vineyards & Winery - 2013 Petit Verdot
- Jefferson Vineyards - 2010 Meritage
- King Family Vineyards - 2012 Meritage
- Michael Shaps - 2012 Tannat
- Michael Shaps - 2012 Raisin d'Etre White
- Narmada Winery - 2010 Yash-Vir,
- North Gate Vineyard - 2012 Meritage
- Rockbridge Vineyard - 2010 V d'Or
- Vint Hill Craft Winery - 2012 Petit Verdot



Any wine made from 100% Virginia fruit was eligible for the competition, while ciders and fruit wines had their own category and medalists. All entries included 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.

Jay Youmans, one of only of 35 Masters of Wine in the U.S., directed this year's competition. Youmans, who is also a Certified Wine Educator and the owner and educational director of the Capital Wine School, recruited wine judges from the professional wine buying and wine media community. A list of the judges along with their bios can be found at <http://www.virginiawine.org/governors-cup>.

For a complete list of winners in the 2015 Governor's Cup competition, [click here](#).

Photos by Jay Paul

