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**Virginia Wineries Association Announces
2016 Governor's Cup® Gold Medalists**

Richmond, Va. (Feb. 8, 2016) – The Governor's Cup Virginia Wine Competition is complete. Thirty-eight Virginia wines have been awarded gold medals in the Virginia Wineries Association's 2016 Governor's Cup® competition, which was held over a four week period during the month of January/early February. Now in its 34th year, the competition 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 432 entries of both red and white wines, from 95 wineries. Thirty red wines and eight white wines received the coveted gold medals. Three of the gold medals were CQA (Commonwealth Quality Alliance) approved. Eight wineries received more than one gold medal. Those wineries are:

Bluestone Vineyards (2)

Granite Heights Winery (3)

Keswick Vineyards (2)

Michael Shaps Vineyards (5)

Paradise Springs Winery (3)

Pearmund Cellars (2)

Pollak Vineyards (2)

Sunset Hills Vineyards (2)

Of the gold medal winning wines, the highest scoring red and white wines will then comprise the Governor's Cup Case to showcase the state's top wines. Finally, the highest scoring wine of the competition will be awarded the grand prize of the Governor's Cup itself. The wines that make the Governor's Cup Case and the actual Governor's Cup will be announced by Governor Terry McAuliffe at the Virginia Governor's Cup Gala on February 22. The gala is a private invitation only event.

Both the Governor's Cup Competition and the resulting Governor's Cup Case boost the visibility of the state's highest-scoring wines through various programs and exposure to top industry critics and tastemakers. The esteemed panel of judges had the difficult task of ranking each wine based on a unified [scoring system](#).

Again for this year's top awards, Virginia is showing a wide variety of wines highlighting the diversity of grapes growing with distinction in Virginia's climate and soil. Virginia Meritage blends lead with fourteen wines receiving gold medals. Five wines that were 100% Petit Verdot won golds, and 2 Tannats and 2 Tannat blends also received gold medals. For whites, three Virginia Chardonnays and two Virginia Petit Mansengs won gold and highlighted that these grapes continue to show well in this climate. Four Cabernet Francs, one Nebbiolo, one Cabernet Sauvignon, one Merlot, one Vermentino, and two dessert wines were also among the gold medalists.

Any wine made from 100% Virginia fruit is eligible for the Governor's Cup Competition (ciders and fruit wines have their own category and medals). 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 rapid growth of Virginia's vibrant wine industry has made it one of the fastest growing agricultural sectors in the state. Today, there are over 275 wineries in Virginia, and 360 vineyards that cultivate over 3,500 acres of grapes. Advancements in wine quality and reputation have grown along with the industry as a whole. For a complete list of gold medal winners and further information about events, tours and tastings, please visit the Virginia Wine Marketing Office's website at <http://www.virginiawine.org/> or call 804-344-8200.

2016 Governor's Cup Gold Medalists

Winery	Vintage	Wine Type
Ankida Ridge Vineyards	2014	Chardonnay
Barboursville Vineyards	2014	Vermentino
Barren Ridge Vineyards	2010	Meritage
Bluestone Vineyard, Inc	2014	Chardonnay
Bluestone Vineyard, Inc	2013	Blue Ice
Breaux Vineyards Ltd.	2013	Meritage
Cardinal Point, Inc.	2014	Clay Hill Cabernet Franc
Delaplane Cellars	2013	Williams Gap
Fabbioli Cellars	2012	Cabernet Franc
Gadino Cellars	2010	Nebbiolo
Glen Manor Vineyards	2013	Meritage
Granite Heights Winery	2010	Evening Serenade
Granite Heights Winery	2010	Lomax Reserve
Granite Heights Winery	2012	Humility
Horton Vineyards	2014	Petit Manseng
Keswick Vineyards	2014	Cabernet Franc Estate Reserve
Keswick Vineyards	2013	Signature Series Cabernet Franc
Michael Shaps	2013	Meritage
Michael Shaps	2013	L Scott
Michael Shaps	2013	Tannat
Michael Shaps	2014	Petit Manseng

Michael Shaps	2013	Raisin D'Etire White
Naked Mountain Winery	2012	Petit Verdot
North Gate Vineyard	2013	Meritage
Notaviva Vineyards	2012	Excelsis
Paradise Springs Winery	2012	Tannat
Paradise Springs Winery	2012	PVT
Paradise Springs Winery	2013	Meritage
Pearmund Cellars, LLC	2013	Petit Verdot
Pearmund Cellars, LLC	2013	Chardonnay
Pollak Vineyards	2012	Meritage
Pollak Vineyards	2012	Merlot
Stone Tower Winery	2013	Hogback Mountain
Sunset Hills Vineyard	2013	Aldie Heights Cuvee
Sunset Hills Vineyard	2010	Petit Verdot
The Barns at Hamilton Station Vineyards	2013	Petit Verdot
Veritas Winery	2013	Vintner's Reserve
Vint Hill Craft Winey	2013	Cabernet Sauvignon

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