

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

3rd Annual Foothill Wine Festival Competition Crowns 2019 Gwinllan Estate Sparkling Rosé Best Sparkling and Best Of Show; 2022 Casino Mine Ranch “Flicka” Named Best White; 2021 Jeff Runquist Charbono Named Best Red; 2022 Rosa-Lucca “Sweet Ayla” Named Best Rosé; and 2021 Jeff Runquist “Sisney” Port Named Best Dessert Wine

Folsom, Calif., —Sept. 14, 2023— **Gwinllan Estate’s 2019 Sparkling Rosé** from Fairplay once again took **Best Sparkling** for the second straight year. The dazzling pink sparkler also garnered the highest score, earning it **Best of Show** honors.

Casino Mine’s Best White, the 2022 “Flicka,” is made from Greco di Tufo, but this grape varietal may not be used on US wine labels. Similar to the usage of “Champagne,” the name is proprietary to a region in Campania, Italy, and cannot legally appear on labels outside the region.

This is the first time a **Charbono** took Best Red at this competition, with honors going to Jeff Runquist. **Rosa-Lucca Estates**, a first-time entrant, took three Best of Class honors, for their 2022 Rosé, 2019 ‘Grandpa’s Field’ Zinfandel and 2022 Falanghina.

From 378 entries by 23 wineries, the judges, which included media, sommeliers and wine buyers from throughout California, awarded 36 Double Golds, 103 Gold, 168 Silver, and 54 Bronze medals. In 2022, 34 Double Gold, 85 Gold, 146 Silver and 60 Bronze medals were awarded out of 347 entries. To win a Double Gold, all judges on a panel must concur that the wine is of superior quality. Scores of 95 points and higher are awarded to Double Gold wines.

This year, 14 wineries entered for the first time, including these new ones:

Happy Dayz - Placer County
Smokin’ Barrel - Placer County
Corkwood Cellars – Amador County
Rubidoux Ridge – Fiddletown, Amador County
Dora Dain - Placer County
J & M Fenaux – Amador County
Wolfe Heights Estate- Sacramento County

Competition Coordinator, Coleen Schwiertert, noted, “This significant growth in new wineries proves that the Foothills region is truly on the rise.” She also noted that many wineries were unable to enter this year, due to the devastating frosts last spring. Some portions of the region were also hard hit by the Mosquito Fire of September, 2022 and the Caldor Fire of August, 2021.

The Foothills Wine Competition was co-created by Mike Owen, President & CEO of Crystal Basin Cellars, and Joe Gagliardi, CEO of Choose Folsom. It is open to wines bearing labels from any District 10 county, including Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Mariposa, Nevada, Placer and Tuolumne. Held in Folsom on Saturday and Sunday, September 9 & 10, at the SAFE Credit Union building, the competition is sponsored by Choose Folsom, which will host the upcoming consumer tasting on November 11, 2023, at the Palladio event center in Folsom. Tickets: www.foothillwinefest.com.

Best of Show and Best of Class winners for the 2023 Foothill Wine Competition:

OVERALL BEST WINE OF THE FOOTHILL WINE COMPETITION			
Gwillian EStates	2019	Sparkling Rose	Judges Award with 98 Points
BEST OF SHOW			
Rosa-Lucca Estates	2022	Rose Wine; Sweet; Ayla Rose	Best of Show Rose
Casino Mine Ranch	2022	Flicka	Best of Show White
Gwinllan Estate	2019	Rose sparkling wine	Best of Show Sparkling
Jeff Runquist	2021	Charbono	Best of Show Red
Jeff Runquist	2021	Sisney	Best of Show Dessert Wine

BEST OF REGION			
Le Casque	2020	Cabernet Franc	Best Cabernet Franc of Region
Rosa-Lucca Estates	2019	Zinfandel - "Grandpa's Field"	Best Zinfandel of Region
Amador Cellars	2019	Teroldego	Best Blended Red Italian Varietals of Region
Vina Moda	2020	Red Blend: Rhone-based Blend- Vinas	Best Red Rhone Blend of Region
PleinAir Vineyards	2019	Cabernet Sauvignon	Best Cabernet Sauvignon of Region
Jeff Runquist	2021	Charbono	Best of Other Red Varietals of Region
Stevenot Winery	2020	Estate Grown Barbera	Best Barbera of Region
Skinner	2022	Grenache Blanc	Best Grenache Blanc of Region
Secret Ravine	2020	Merlot	Best Merlot of Region
PleinAir Vineyards	2020	Mourvedre	Best Mourvèdre of Region
Wilderotter Vineyard	2018	Nebbiolo	Best Nebbiolo of Region
Di Arie	2019	Interlude	Best of Other Italian Blends of Region
Rosa-Lucca Estates	2022	Falanghina; "Cugini"	Best of Other White Varietal of Region
Drytown Cellars	2020	Petite Sirah	Best Petite Sirah of Region
Wise Villa Winery	2022	Pinot Gris	Best Pinot Grigio of Region
Shenandoah Vineyards	2021	Red Blend: Proprietary- Zingiovese	Best Red Blend of Region
Steiner Family Vineyards	2022	Roussanne -Cooper Ranch	Best Roussanne of Region
Findleton Estate	2020	Syrah/ Shiraz	Best Syrah of Region
Belledor Vineyards	2020	Tempranillo	Best Tempranillo of Region
Ironstone Vineyards	2020	Reserve Viognier	Best Viognier of Region
Skinner	2022	Carignan	Best Carignane of Region
Cooper Vineyards LLC	2020	Sangiovese	Best Sangiovese of Region
Windwalker Vineyard	2020	Bordeaux Blend	Best Blended Red Bordeaux of Region
Bumgarner Winery	2022	Van Blanc	Best Blended White Wine of Region
1850 Wine Cellars	2020	Malbec	Best Malbec of Region
Casino Mine Ranch	2020	Grenache	Best Grenache of Region
SZABO Vineyards	2019	Primitivo	Best Primitivo of Region
Wilderotter Vineyard	2021	Sauvignon Blanc/ Fume Blanc	Best Sauvignon Blanc of Region
Wise Villa Winery	2022	Chardonnay California Style	Best Chardonnay of Region

This year's judges commented that Zinfandels are becoming far more elegant and restrained than in the past. They also observed that Barberas are exhibiting better tannin management, and that Rhones continue to impress. Further demonstrating the region's grape-growing breadth, Italian varietals like Barbera, Charbono, Greco, Sagrantino, Nebbiolo, Teroldego and Falanghina were prominent among the Best of Class winners.

Tickets to the Foothill Wine Fest, including overnight hotel packages and gift cards to the Palladio shopping mall, are available on the Festival Website: www.foothillwinefest.com.

A complete list of winners can be found on the same website.

For more information, contact Coleen: ColeenS@choosefolsom.com

About Choose Folsom

Choose Folsom is a collaboration of the Folsom Chamber of Commerce, the Folsom Tourism Bureau and the Folsom Economic Development Corporation. Representing approximately 1,000 members, these organizations are the principal advocates for business and a vibrant economy to support the quality of life in Folsom. www.foothillwinefest.com.

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