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Top American winemaker will judge the world's best wines in Indy

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Over 50 expert wine judges, including one of America's most award winning winemakers, will convene at the State Fairgrounds next week for the Indy International wine competition. Daryl Groom, executive vice president/winemaker for Geyser Peak Winery in Sonoma County California, will join the other 49 judges to swirl, sip and judge over 2,700 wines from 16 different countries.

Daryl Groom's winemaking career began in his home country of Australia. His move to Sonoma County proved fruitful. Last year alone, under the direction of Groom, Geyser Peak's 28 wines earned 465 medals. "Daryl has been named winemaker of the year twice," says Richard Vine, competition chairman, "his ability to identify key characteristics of the wines, good or bad, is essential to our world class competition." Additional wine judges include renowned wine writers, winery owners, and wine shop proprietors.

Sponsored by the Indiana State Fair and coordinated by the Indiana Wine Grape Council, the Indy International is currently the third largest wine competition in the U.S. Wines from as far away as Tasmania and as close to home as downtown Indianapolis will be judged at the event, July 26-28 at the Farm Bureau Building. More wines are entered each year, all hoping to bring home a prestigious medal (bronze, silver, or gold) from Indy. Every wine is evaluated by a panel of five judges, who taste about 120 different wines each day. There are more than 70 contest categories for commercial and amateur winemakers to choose from.

Indiana wines will be included in the judging, on an equal playing level with other top wines from around the world. Each year, Indiana winemakers come home with increasing numbers of medals. "Indiana wines are excellent," said Sally Linton, of the Indiana Wine Grape Council. "This competition allows our winemakers to show that midwestern wines are delicious AND internationally award winning."

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For those interested in catching a bit of the action, the judging is open for public viewing free of charge. The public will get the chance to taste Indiana's award winning wines at the Taste of Indiana Agriculture on August 2nd at the State Fairgrounds, Farm Bureau Building. The event is from 6-9 p.m. The top award winners will be announced at the reception. Tickets are available at Indiana Ticketmaster, the State Fair Box Office (317)927-1482, and at the door.

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Contact: Daryl Groom - (707) 462-3221, Fax: (707) 462-8885
Sally Linton – (765) 496-3842, Fax: (765) 494-7953, lintons@purdue.edu
Richard Vine – (765) 494-6500, Fax: (765) 494-7953, vined@foodsci.purdue.edu

NOTE:

Contact Sally Linton for high-res. digital photographs of the 2000 Indy International Wine Competition.

If interested, we would be happy to have you sit with one of the judging panels to learn the aspects of professional wine judging ~ You be the judge.