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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Indy International Wine Competition honors wines from around the globe

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – A taste of Germany, Portugal, and New Zealand was present at the Indiana State Fairgrounds this past weekend. Wines flowed in from these countries and ten others to be sipped, swirled, and evaluated by 50 wine judges at the Indy International Wine Competition.

Currently the third largest competition in the country, the reputation of the Indy International attracted 2,786 commercial and amateur wine entries this year. “The quality of the judges as leaders in wine marketing, winemaking, and education has established the Indy International, in the heartland of America, as the premier event for wineries to showcase their wines head to head with the best from around the globe.” Says Richard Vine, PhD, competition chairman.

All entries are judged individually and are eligible to earn a bronze medal, silver, gold, or no medal. During the wine extravaganza, 303 gold medals were awarded, 847 silver, and 984 bronzes. The best of show American Airlines trophy was awarded to the 1998 Preston Premium Wines Cabernet Sauvignon from Columbia Valley, Washington. Best red wine honors went to the 1998 Fanucchi Vineyards Old Vine Zinfandel from Sonoma County, California. Stone Hill Winery of Missouri, earned the best white wine with their Steinberg, a white blend.

Each wine was scored by a panel of five judges. The judges tasted approximately 150 wines per day during the competition. “The Indy International uses an excellent evaluation process that leads to great results,” Dan Berger, syndicated wine columnist and wine judge, summarizes, “Dividing the wines into small groups for evaluation, like in the Indy International, makes it easier on the judges.”

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The Indy International is one of the most comprehensive wine competitions in the country. In addition to the commercial wine competition, the country's top fruit wine competition takes place here. It is also the only wine competition of its size and stature to include an amateur wine category. The majority of successful wineries around the world were born when an amateur winemaker received praise for his/her wine. At the Indy International, amateurs have the opportunity to achieve success and move forward in their winemaking dreams. The amateur wines earned 476 medals at the competition this year, out of 608 amateur wines entered.

Look for Indiana to continue to grow in reputation as a wine state. Not only through the success of the Indy International, but also by the number of awards earned by Indiana wineries. Out of 202 Indiana wines entered, the wineries came home with 127 awards; 14 gold medals, 46 silver, and 67 bronzes. National awards also found a home in Indiana this year; French Lick Winery earned the national fruit champion award with their Montmorency Cherry wine.

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