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Indy International Wine Competition is second largest in the nation; Largest outside of California

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Indiana is becoming well known in the world of wine. The state is now home to 27 wineries and the second largest wine competition in the United States, the Indy International, which is the largest competition outside of California. Indianapolis will be flowing with wines from around the world for this wine bonanza on July 25 – 27, 2002 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds Exposition Hall.

Last year, 2,786 wines poured in from 15 countries to be judged by top wine experts and winemakers at the Indy International. This year, the goal is to judge 3,000 entries from every major wine-producing region in the world. Wines are judged in one of three categories; commercial wines from wineries, fruit wines from wineries made from non-grape fruit, and amateur wines from home winemakers.

Judging 3,000 wines over the course of three days is no easy task, even for the se wine experts that are involved with wine on a daily basis in their jobs. Fifty wine judges from throughout the nation sniff, swirl, sip and spit nearly 120 wines each day of the competition, attempting to distinguish the top wines in the world.

Each wine is eligible to receive a gold, silver, bronze or no medal depending on how well the wine shows during the judging. The judges are set up in panels of five people. Each wine is judged blindly in a numbered glass, prepared in a back room away from the judges. The judges' score the wines based on appearance, aroma, taste and aftertaste. If all five judges on the panel determine that a particular wine is outstanding, it receives a concordance gold medal. Receiving a concordance gold is rare, only 55-60 wines in the entire competition receive this distinction, an indication of the world-class quality needed to receive gold medals from all five members of a panel.

The concordance gold medal winners are then judged a second time in the Best of Show competition that takes place on the final morning of the competition. All fifty judges taste the top winners to determine who will go home with the crown trophies from the Indy International wine competition.

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Indiana winemakers won five of the concordance gold medals last year in addition to 122 other medals at the competition. “The Indy International helps to showcase the state’s growing wine industry, now with 27 wineries and several more in development,” says Sally Linton of the Indiana Wine Grape Council. “Additionally it helps to inform consumers of the excellent wines produced right here in Indiana. Indiana wines are winning awards beside some of the world’s top wines, that’s impressive.”

Results from the competition will be posted on the new Indy International web page after the event; www.in.gov/iwc. When wandering through the local store searching for a good bottle of wine, the results from the Indy International can be very helpful. Top wine judges, ensuring consumers that they will be purchasing a good quality wine to enjoy at home, selected all of the medal-winning wines listed in the results.

For those interested in catching a bit of the action, the judging is open to the public for viewing from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, July 25 and Friday, July 26 and from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, July 27 for the Best of Show competition.

The public will get the chance to taste Indiana’s award winning wines along with tasty food from a dozen Indiana commodity groups at A Taste of Indiana Agriculture on August 1, 2002 at the State Fairgrounds, Farm Bureau Building. The event is from 6-9 p.m. The top award winners from the competition will be announced at the reception. Tickets are available for \$15 at Indiana Ticketmaster, the State Fair Box Office (317) 927-1482, and at the door. Guests must be 21 or older to attend.

The Indy International wine competition is sponsored by the Indiana State Fair and coordinated by the Indiana Wine Grape council, based at Purdue University.

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NOTE:

Contact Sally Linton for high-res. digital photographs of the 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.