



**MEDIA CONTACT ONLY**

California State Fair Media Center  
(916) 263-3108  
media@calexpo.com

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**STATE FAIR ANNOUNCES THE BEST CALIFORNIA WINES**

*Winners to be Honored at the State's Premier Wine & Food Event*

**SACRAMENTO** (July 7, 2010)- The California State Fair honored the best winemakers, vineyards and wineries in the state at this year's 15th Annual California's Grape & Gourmet, the state's premier California wine event.

The California's Grape & Gourmet was created to celebrate and acknowledge excellence in the California wine industry, as determined by the 2010 State Fair Commercial Wine Competition, the oldest and most prestigiously judged wine competition in North America.

A VIP awards ceremony was held at 3 p.m. today at the Grape & Gourmet event to honor the top winners from the wine competition, including more than 300 wineries and industry leaders. Specialty awards included the California Wine Lifetime Achievement Award, the Golden State Winery of the Year, the California Vineyard of the Year and the Best of Show Wines.

Beginning at 5:00 p.m., the public will have the opportunity to taste from more than 700 award-winning wines, 80 restaurants & caterers, 25 award-winning California micro-breweries and cheeses. Hosted at the Sacramento Convention Center, admission tickets are still available at the door for California's Grape & Gourmet for \$75 per person. The price of admission includes unlimited wine and food tasting, as well as a free commemorative wineglass, wine tote, plate and a general admission ticket for the California State Fair. Select wines will also be available for purchase by the case or bottle with all proceeds from those sales benefiting the Friends of the California State Fair Scholarship Fund.

**Wine Competition Results**

At this year's Wine Competition, 2,786 wine entries were received from more than 600 participating wineries. Seventy-two professional wine judges awarded 1,915 medals, including 37 Double Gold, 195 Gold, 1,073 Silver and 610 Bronze awards. Earlier today, the award winners that were announced included:

**GOLDEN STATE WINERY OF THE YEAR**

Robert Hall Winery

**CALIFORNIA VINEYARD OF THE YEAR**

Bien Nacido Vineyards