



NEWS RELEASE

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BEST IN SHOW: SCHUYLKILL COUNTY VIDAL BLANC TAKES HOME TOP HONORS IN ANNUAL PA WINE COMPETITION FOR SECOND YEAR IN A ROW

The real winner is the Pennsylvania consumer says PWA President Sam Landis

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (April 6, 2010) — For the second year in a row, Benigna's Creek Sunshine Vidal won the Best in Show award at the Pennsylvania Winery Association's (PWA) annual Pennsylvania Wine Competition in State College, PA. Sunshine Vidal, made from the Vidal Blanc grape, won the top ranking out of a total of 352 wines entered into the competition.

The top five medal winners in the state were Arrowhead Wine Cellars in North East, PA; Benigna's Creek Winery in Klingersstown, PA; Nissley Vineyards in Bainbridge, PA; Penn Shore Vineyards in North East, PA; and Shade Mountain Vineyards in Middleburg, PA.

"The wines coming out of Pennsylvania showcased in the 2010 PA Wine Competition were of some of the highest quality I have tasted, which goes to show the growth and talent that is coming out of our industry." said PWA President Sam Landis. "The real winner in all of this is the Pennsylvania consumer, who more than ever has a diverse selection of great wines right in their own backyard."

In addition to Best of Show, Benigna's Creek took home medals in three out of the four top categories in this competition. Benigna's Creek 2009 Strawberry won Best Fruit Wine and Benigna's Creek 2009 Sunshine Vidal won Best White Wine, as well as the title of Best of Show. Shade Mountain Vineyards' 2008 Merlot took home the medal for Best Red Wine.

The 352 wines entered for consideration were judged by Amenti Del Vino, a Mystic, CT-based regional wine society, on February 6 in Cromwell, CT.

Pennsylvania is the nation's seventh largest wine producer, with approximately 971,191 gallons produced in 2008 by more than 130 wineries throughout the state.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: For a complete list of award-winning wines or interviews with winery operators in your region, please contact Jennifer Eckinger at 717-234-1844 or info@pennsylvaniawine.com.

The Pennsylvania Winery Association (PWA) is a non-profit agricultural trade association that represents more than 100 of the state's wineries. For more information about the PWA and each of Pennsylvania's wineries visit pennsylvaniawine.com. The website offers information about statewide festivals and events, award-winning wines and links directly to winery web pages.