



2010 International Cold Climate Wine Competition

www.iccwc.org

c/o Minnesota Grape Growers Association
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PRESS RELEASE

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**2010 International Cold Climate Wine Competition (ICCWC) Call For Entries
Opens May 1, 2010.**

The ICCWC extends the invitation to commercial wineries producing wines from cold hardy grape cultivars to participate in the "2010 International Cold Climate Wine Competition" to be held in St. Paul Minnesota on August 24, 2010. Entries open Saturday, May 1, 2010 and close at 4:30 PM on Monday, August 16, 2010.

While there are dozens of wine competitions around the United States, this is the only competition devoted to the promotion of quality wines made exclusively from cold hardy grape cultivars.

The ICCWC is a result of a feasibility study conducted by the Minnesota Grape Growers Association (MGGA) Board of Directors, and a wonderful partnership between the MGGA, the Minnesota State Fair, and the University of Minnesota (U of M) where several cold hardy wine grapes varieties were developed. Together, these organizations sponsor the "2010 International Cold Climate Wine Competition".

The success of the 2009 ICCWC and expansion plans for the 2010 competition provide more evidence of the increasing quality of cold climate grapes, said Jim Luby, Professor, U of M Department of Horticultural Science, one of the scientists developing grapes and member of the ICCWC steering committee. "We had a great response from wineries entering the inaugural event in 2009. As the cold climate wine industry keeps expanding, we look forward to even greater geographic diversity of entries and creativity from winemakers."

The event includes 32 different competition categories, including Riparia, French & American Hybrids, Sparkling, Specialty & Fortified, Non-Grape, and 100% Cold Hardy Grape wines.

Careful consideration is given to judging panels which consist of an equal mix of qualified individuals from the wine media, enologists, restaurateurs and distributors/retailers.

In addition to Double Gold, Gold, Silver and Bronze medals, ICCWC judges award three Best of Category wines (red, white, specialty/fortified) and the Minnesota Governor's Cup Award.

Each entry will consist of 2 bottles regardless of volume. The fee for each entry is \$40. For example, a winery entering two wines would send two bottles of each (4 bottles total) at a cost of \$80.

All entries are to be shipped to the Minnesota State Fair where they will be kept in air conditioned storage until the competition. Even though the competition focus is on cold hardy varieties, given Minnesota summer weather extremes, entrants are encouraged to ship wines on Monday and Tuesdays to help avoid any potential heat damage from wines sitting in a hot truck or warehouse over a weekend.

Detailed information on entry categories, rules, and shipping instructions is available at the competition web site <http://www.iccwc.org>.

About 2009 ICCWC

Over 300 entries from 60 commercial wineries in 16 states were surveyed by 15 expert judges. Judges included prominent wine writers, restaurateurs, retailers and wine educators. Four Best of Show, 4 Double Gold, 28 Gold, 60 Silver and 105 Bronze medals were awarded. "Best of Show" awards went to Mac's Creek Winery & Vineyards, Lexington, NE, 2008 Edelweiss for Best White; Lincoln Peak Vineyard and Winery, New Haven, VT., 2008 Marquette for Best Red; and Winehaven Winery and Vineyard, Chisago City, MN, 2007 Slippery Slope White Ice Wine for Best Specialty Wine & Fortified Wine. The 2007 Frontenac Reserve Red Wing Port, from Falconer Vineyards and Winery, Red Wing, Minnesota won the coveted "Minnesota Governor's Cup" trophy. Entries were scored based on appearance, aroma and bouquet, taste and texture, aftertaste and overall impression. Judges even shared tips for improvement - a rare bonus for competitors. More information at: <http://www.iccwc.org>.

About MGGA

The Minnesota Grape Growers Association, founded in 1976, with current membership of over 700 in Minnesota, the upper Midwest, eastern USA and Canada, is dedicated to advancing the art and science of growing grapes in cold climates. The Association sponsors education workshops, tours, and tastings of locally produced wines at selected events, and sponsors an annual national Cold Climate Grape & Wine Conference in February. More information at: <http://www.mngrapes.org/>

About University of Minnesota Wine Grape Breeding Program

The University of Minnesota initiated a breeding program for wine grapes in the mid-1980's. In 2000, a state-of-the-art enology lab and research winery was completed. Today, the U of M is recognized as one of the top wine grape programs in the United States. The program's goal is to develop high quality, cold-hardy, and disease resistant wine and table grape cultivars. Varietal introductions include; whites - La Crescent (2002) and Frontenac gris (2003), plus reds - Frontenac (1996), Marquette (2006). More information at: www.grapes.umn.edu

About Minnesota State Fair.

In 2009, almost 1,800,000 people attended the Minnesota State Fair, the largest state fair in the United States in terms of average daily attendance. This year's MN State Fair will be held over 12 days from August 26 through Labor Day, Sept. 6, 2010. More information at: www.mnstatefair.org

Three of fifteen 2009 ICCWC judges evaluated entries. Left to right: Bill Ward, Wine Writer, Minneapolis Star Tribune; Michael Grabner, Wine Buyer, Century Wine & Spirits; Anna Katharine Mansfield, Assistant Professor of Enology, Cornell University.