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OVER 60 RESTAURANTS AND WINE RETAILERS RECEIVE VIRGINIA WINE MASTER'S AWARDS

Richmond, VA – July 25, 2012 – The Virginia Wine Master's Awards were distributed to 64 restaurants and wine shops throughout Virginia for 2011. This program highlights the businesses that are taking the localvore movement to the next level, specifically as it regards to their efforts in promoting and selling Virginia wines.

In order to qualify for the program, businesses need to meet set credentials based on the number of Virginia wines they have available for customers, as well as their promotional and display activities throughout the year. The program is broken into various categories based on business type and level of award. Restaurants can be presented with either the 5 Stem Award or the 3 Stem Award and wine stores can be awarded either the Gold Case Award or the Silver Case Award. Of the 64 businesses presented with a Virginia Wine Master's Award, there were 35 restaurants that received the 5 Stem Award, 9 restaurants received the 3 Stem Award, 17 wine stores received the Gold Case Award, and 3 wine stores received the Silver Case Award.

"Though we are working to rebuild this program, the Virginia Wine Master's Program already showcases the support Virginia wineries receive from trade partners around the Commonwealth and DC," states Annette Boyd, director of the Virginia Wine Marketing Office. "As the industry continues to grow, the support from restaurants and wine shops is essential. We appreciate everything these businesses are doing to raise awareness and appreciation of Virginia wines and we encourage consumers to support them in their efforts."

Sales of Virginia wine reached an all-time high in fiscal year 2011 with more than 462,000 cases sold during the fiscal year. This figure marked a sales increase of more than 11% over the previous fiscal year. Virginia is now the nation's fifth largest wine producer and seventh largest wine grape producer. According to the most recent economic impact study, the Virginia wine industry employs approximately 3,000 people and contributes almost \$350 million to the Virginia economy on an annual basis.

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RESTAURANTS AND WINE SHOPS IN THE 2011 VIRGINIA WINE MASTER'S PROGRAM

Aberdeen Barn	5 Stem Award	Charlottesville, VA
Alexander's	3 Stem Award	Roanoke, VA
BISTRO 1888	5 Stem Award	South Boston, VA
Black Bear Bistro	5 Stem Award	Warrenton, VA
Blue Duck Tavern	5 Stem Award	Washington, DC
Café Assorti	3 Stem Award	Arlington, VA
Catch 31	5 Stem Award	Virginia Beach, VA
Cure Bar and Bistro	3 Stem Award	Washington, DC
Diamond Hill General Store	Gold Case Award	Moneta, VA
Emilio's Italian Restaurant	3 Stem Award	Staunton, VA
Garnetts Café	5 Stem Award	Richmond, VA
Grapes of Taste	Gold Case Award	Bowling Green, VA
Hamilton's at First & Main	5 Stem Award	Charlottesville, VA
Heartwood	Gold Case Award	Abingdon, VA
Heartwood Restaurant	5 Stem Award	Abingdon, VA
Inn at Meander Plantation	5 Stem Award	Locust Dale, VA
Ipanema Café	5 Stem Award	Richmond, VA
Lafayette Inn & Restaurant	5 Stem Award	Stanardsville, VA
Local Chop and Grill House	5 Stem Award	Harrisonburg, VA
Mahi Mahi's	5 Stem Award	Virginia Beach, VA
Marshall Farms Corner	Silver Case Award	Unionville, VA
Melting Pot	5 Stem Award	Charlottesville, VA
Melting Pot	5 Stem Award	Richmond, VA
Michie Tavern General Store	Gold Case Award	Charlottesville, VA
Molasses Grill	5 Stem Award	Halifax, VA
Mr. Bills' Wine Cellar	Gold Case Award	Roanoke, VA
Old Mill Room in The Boars Head	5 Stem Award	Charlottesville, VA
Olde Dominion Wine Shoppe	Gold Case Award	Occoquan, VA
Olde Virginia Gourmet & Gifts, Inc.	Gold Case Award	Stafford, VA
On the Potomac at Landsdowne Resort	5 Stem Award	Leesburg, VA
Once Upon a Vine	Gold Case Award	Richmond, VA
Parkhurst Restaurant at Rainbow Hill	3 Stem Award	West Luray, VA
Parkhurst Wine Shop at Rainbow Hill	Gold Case Award	West Luray, VA
Preston's	5 Stem Award	Blacksburg, VA
Rio Hill Wine & Gourmet	Gold Case Award	Charlottesville, VA
Ruth's Chris Steak House	5 Stem Award	Midlothian, VA
Salacia	5 Stem Award	Virginia Beach, VA
Silver Thatch Inn	5 Stem Award	Charlottesville, VA
Tautogs	3 Stem Award	Virginia Beach, VA
The Apple House	Gold Case Award	Linden, VA
The Boathouse at Rocketts Landing	3 Stem Award	Richmond, VA
The Dining Room at the Berkeley Hotel	5 Stem Award	Richmond, VA
The Frenchman's Cellar	Gold Case Award	Culpeper, VA
The Green Leaf Grill	5 Stem Award	Waynesboro, VA

The Harvest Table Restaurant	5 Stem Award	Meadowview, VA
The Inn at Little Washington	5 Stem Award	Washington, VA
The Mimslyn Inn	5 Stem Award	Luray, VA
The Restaurant at Patowmack Farm	3 Stem Award	Lovettsville, VA
The Roosevelt	5 Stem Award	Richmond, VA
The Virginia Wine Experience	Gold Case Award	Fredericksburg, VA
The Wine Cellar	Silver Case Award	Staunton, VA
The Wine Loft	5 Stem Award	Glen Allen, VA
The Yellow Barn at Shenandoah Caverns	Gold Case Award	Shenandoah Caverns, VA
Tinnell's Finer Foods	Gold Case Award	Roanoke, VA
TJ's Tavern & Dining Room	5 Stem Award	Charlottesville, VA
Trummer's on Main	5 Stem Award	Clifton, VA
Uncorked	Gold Case Award	Buena Vista, VA
Vinifera Wine Bar & Bistro	5 Stem Award	Reston, VA
Virginia Originals	Gold Case Award	Virginia Beach, VA
Virginia Originals & Chesapeake Grill	5 Stem Award	Virginia Beach, VA
Washington Street Purveyors	Silver Case Award	Lexington, VA
Wayside Inn	5 Stem Award	Middletown, VA
Woodberry Inn	3 Stem Award	Meadows of Dan, VA
Zynodoa	5 Stem Award	Staunton, VA