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VIRGINIA WINES AWARDED 22 MEDALS AT 2012 SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE WINE COMPETITION

Richmond, VA – January 13, 2012 – Twenty-two awards went to Virginia wines at the 2012 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition last week, including one Best in Class and one Double Gold. This competition is the largest competition of American wines in the world.

The list of winners was released on Friday, January 6th, at which point <u>Barboursville Vineyards</u> learned that they not only won awards for their 2010 Viognier Reserve and their 2007 Octagon, but that their 2008 Cabernet Franc Reserve won Best in Class for Cabernet Franc, the highest award within each category. The Barboursville 2008 Cabernet Franc Reserve placed above 97 other entrants in Cabernet Franc, from California, Washington, New York, and also Virginia.

<u>Barrel Oak Vineyards</u> also won an outstanding 5 medals for their 2009 Cabernet Franc, 2009 Petit Verdot, 2010 Chardonnay Reserve, 2010 Chardonnay, and 2010 Viognier. Within the category of Chardonnay in the \$25.00-\$29.99 price range, the Barrel Oak 2010 Chardonnay Reserve won a Double Gold medal out of 89 medals awarded.

Other Virginia wineries who won medals at this competition include Barren Ridge Vineyards, Doukenie Winery, Gray Ghost Vineyards, Keswick Vineyards, Philip Carter Winery, and Rappahannock Cellars.

The 2012 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition set a new record for American wine competitions this year with 5,500 entries. There were 65 judges from around the country who participated in the evaluation of these wines. A public tasting of many of the winners will take place in San Francisco on February 18, 2012.

For a complete list of Virginia medals in the 2012 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition, visit <u>www.virginiawine.org/industry/documents</u>. A full list of results can be found on <u>http://www.winejudging.com</u>.