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**For Immediate Release:**

July 21, 2011

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**Virginia Sesquicentennial Winery Passport**  
**A Unique Blend of Virginia Wineries and Civil War Battlefields for History**  
**and Wine Lovers Alike**

**Richmond, Va.** (July 21, 2011) - The Virginia Wine Board unveiled today the Virginia Sesquicentennial Winery Passport, a guide to 23 Virginia Wineries with special labels commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, and the 42 battlefields located near them (<http://www.virginiawine.org/sesquicentennial>).

From Democracy Vineyards Emancipation 2010 Merlot to Gray Ghost Vineyards Adieu Late Harvest Vidal to Tarara Winery Proclamation Chardonnay, collectors, Civil War buffs and wine lovers alike will have plenty to enjoy along the Virginia Sesquicentennial Wine Trail. The passport includes a list of participating wineries, the name, address and contact information at each winery, a description of each featured wine, a label description and images of each commemorative label, nearby battlefields and a map of the state with a battlefields map key. The passports are available online and at participating wineries (<http://www.virginiawine.org/sesquicentennial#>).

2011 marks the start of the 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War and Emancipation. The General Assembly of Virginia created the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission in 2006 ([HB 1440](#)) to

prepare for and commemorate the sesquicentennial of Virginia's participation in the American Civil War.

"Virginia's rich history and Virginia wines are intertwined, offering visitors a unique opportunity throughout the state. The five wine growing regions – the Appalachian Plateau, the Appalachian Ridge and Valley Region, the Blue Ridge, the Piedmont, and the Atlantic Coastal Plain – boast vineyards and wineries in addition to famous battlefields, including Chancellorsville, Spotsylvania, Wilderness and Bull Run. We hope you will tour our vineyards and sample our award-winning wines as you tour Virginia's battlefields," said J. Rock Stephens, chairman, Virginia Wine Board.

The Commonwealth of Virginia has more Civil War sites than any other state, and Virginia Wines pre-date the Civil War by 240 years, when the government required each male settler at Jamestown to plant and tend to at least ten grapevines. Since then, Virginia has been proclaimed one of the up-and-coming wine regions, along with Chile, Italy, Spain and New Zealand by Travel + Leisure.

The rapid growth of Virginia's vibrant wine industry has made it one of the fastest growing agricultural sectors in the state. In 1979, there were only six wineries in Virginia. Today, there are over 190 wineries, with growth escalating as fast as the state's advancements in wine quality and reputation. For a complete list of winners and further information about events, tours and tastings, please visit the Virginia Wine Marketing Office's website at <http://www.virginiawine.org/> or call 1-804-344-8200.

The Virginia Winery Association's (VWA) mission is to actively encourage and support the production, quality, promotion, and appreciation of Virginia Wines. The VWA, representing all Virginia's farm wineries, is the go-to-resource and focal point within the wine industry for local, state and national issues that affect its members.

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