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## VIRGINIA WINES SHINE AT COMPETITIONS IN 2011

**Richmond, VA** - August 4, 2011 - Virginia wines were recently well represented at two prominent wine competitions. Among the **51 Virginia wineries** that participated in the International Eastern Wine Competition and Atlantic Seaboard Wine Competition, Virginia took away **226 medals** including **11 Best in Class, 1 Double Gold** and **18 Gold medals**.

Attimo Winery, located in Christiansburg, Virginia, won a Double Gold and Best in Class for their Sonnet 98, a 2010 Vidal Blanc, in the 2011 International Eastern Wine Competition. Dr. Richard Obiso Jr., President and Manager of Attimo Winery, believes that it is the bouquet and vibrant characteristics of this wine that make it stand out. He believes that participating in wine competitions is good for individual wineries but great for the industry as a whole. "We are such a growing industry, and we need to show that we can make wine just as well as any other region," Obiso declared.

Barboursville Vineyards took away the most number of awards from these two competitions of the 51 Virginia wineries that participated. They won 11 awards including two Best of Class and 2 gold medals, all from the Atlantic Seaboard Wine Competition. The Barboursville Vineyards 2007 Octagon and the 2009 Petit Verdot both won the esteemed Best of Class award.

The International Eastern Wine Competition took place June 14th and 15th and is one of the largest and most competitive tastings in North America, judged by a panel of knowledgeable wine professionals and media from the East Coast and beyond, two of which came from Virginia. About 1,400 wines were submitted and a total of 860 medals were awarded.

The Atlantic Seaboard Wine Competition took place this year on July 23rd and 24th and represented wines from 11 states on the Atlantic Seaboard. In total, 335 gold, silver, and bronze medals were awarded, 165 of which went to Virginia wineries.

For a complete list of Virginia medals from these two competitions, visit [www.virginiawine.org/industry/documents](http://www.virginiawine.org/industry/documents).

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