



## NEWS RELEASE



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### Local Winemaker's Competition Continues to Grow

#### **—85 Colorado wines competed in this year's Mesa County Fair wine competition—**

Eighteen different commercial winemakers from around the State entered their wines in the growing Mesa County Fair contest. The 2011 Tempranillo produced by Reeder Mesa Winery took home the gold medal and Best in Show in the Mesa County Fair's 2015 Commercial Winemaker's Competition.

The judges awarded the **Tempranillo** -- their "**Best of Show-Commissioners Cup**" award in the popular competition, which is now in its sixth year. The wine earned the highest point score of the day earning it a gold medal plus the "Best of Show". Wines produced by Mesa Park Vineyards, Talon Winery and Whitewater Hill Winery were also awarded gold medals.

The total medal count for the competition was 4 gold medals, 25 silver medals, and 34 bronze medals.

All commercial winemakers in Colorado were invited to compete. Each entry was required to have 75% of its ingredients grown in Mesa County. While most of the competing wines were local, there were 18 wines from the Front Range and surrounding area wineries this year.

A panel of distinguished judges including wine columnists, wine critics, retailers, food & beverage directors and experienced sommeliers, reviewed the wines in a "blind" tasting held on Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, at the Fairfield Inn by Marriott in downtown Grand Junction. The tasting was facilitated by Steve Menke, Associate Professor of Enology, Colorado State University. The judges were:

- Shirley Nelson, Wine writer and pioneer supporter of the New Mexico wine industry. Ms. Nelson has judged numerous wine competitions and has been following the Colorado wine industry for many years. Nelson is a three-time Mesa County Fair wine competition judge and two-time Colorado Governor's Cup judge.

- Patty Kester, Wine aficionado and Sales Representative for Beverage Distributors Company out of Grand Junction, Beverage Distributors holds the largest share of the Colorado spirits market.
- Dave Buchanan, Consulting wine writer for the Daily Sentinel in Grand Junction. Mr. Buchanan covers the local, national and international wine scene in both print and online. Buchanan is a two-time Mesa County Fair wine competition judge.
- Debbie Kovalik, City of Grand Junction Executive Director, Visitors and Convention Bureau has spent the last 24 years helping promote Colorado's wine industry. Ms. Kovalik was named "Friend of Colorado Wine" by the Colorado Association for Viticulture and Enology (CAVE) in 2013.
- Phillip Acquafresca, Director of Operations for *Future Bars Inc.* in San Francisco, California. Mr. Acquafresca has been a Food and Wine Director and is an advanced level Sommelier. Acquafresca was awarded Sommelier of the year in 2001 by the San Francisco Chronicle.

Wine writer and judge at this year's competition, Shirley Nelson, offered, *"The wines in this year's Mesa County Wine Competition highlighted the talents of the winemakers who captured the varietal qualities of grapes or offered attractive blends. Worthy of note - this year's judges ranged from California to New Mexico to Colorado, meaning that a broad range of expertise added a bon bouche to the competition. In the exploding world of wines, Mesa County wines certainly hold their own!"*

Medals were awarded as follows:

### **Best of Show: Commissioner's Cup: 2011 Tempranillo by Reeder Mesa Vineyards**

#### **RED WINES**

<b>MEDAL</b>	<b>WINE NAME</b>	<b>WINERY</b>
GOLD	2011 Tempranillo	Reeder Mesa Vineyards
GOLD	2012 Merlot	Mesa Park Vineyards
GOLD	2012 Ethereal	Whitewater Hill Vineyards
SILVER	2012 Malbec	Avant Vineyards
SILVER	2012 Cabernet Sauvignon	Desert Sun Vineyards
SILVER	2013 Cab Franc	Kahil Winery
SILVER	2013 Cabernet Franc	Mesa Park Vineyards
SILVER	2013 Cabernet Sauvignon	Mesa Park Vineyards
SILVER	Barn owl Red	Mesa Park Vineyards
SILVER	2013 Family Reserve Red	Mesa Park Vineyards
SILVER	2012 Cabernet Sauvignon	Plum Creek Cellars
SILVER	2009 Petit Sirah	Reeder Mesa Vineyards
SILVER	2011 Petit Verdot	Reeder Mesa Vineyards
SILVER	2012 Merlot	Silver Vines Winery

SILVER	2012	Tenderfoot Stomp	Vino Salida Wine Cellars
SILVER	2013	Shiraz	Whitewater Hill Vineyards
SILVER	2012	Cabernet Sauvignon	Whitewater Hill Vineyards
SILVER	2014	Sweetheart Red	Whitewater Hill Vineyards
BRONZE	2013	Cabernet Franc	Avant Vineyards
BRONZE	2013	Petit Verdot	Avant Vineyards
BRONZE	2012	Cougar Run Calico	Carlson Vineyards
BRONZE	2012	Cougar Run Merlot	Carlson Vineyards
BRONZE	2012	Cougar Run Cab Franc	Carlson Vineyards
BRONZE	2012	Cabernet Franc	Debeque Canyon Winery
BRONZE	2012	Malbec	Grande River Vineyards
BRONZE	2012	Syrah	Grande River Vineyards
BRONZE	2010	Chambourcin	Leroux Creek Winery
BRONZE		Merlot Blend	Maison La Belle Vie
BRONZE	2010	Grand Mesa	Plum Creek Cellars
BRONZE	2012	Cabernet Franc	Plum Creek Cellars
BRONZE	2011	Merlot	Plum Creek Cellars
BRONZE		Palisade Red	Plum Creek Cellars
BRONZE	2011	Cabernet Franc	Reeder Mesa Vineyards
BRONZE	2009	Land's End Red	Reeder Mesa Vineyards
BRONZE	2013	Cabernet Franc	Silver Vines Winery
BRONZE	2013	Cabernet Franc	Vino Salida Wine Cellars
BRONZE	2012	Cabernet Franc	Whitewater Hill Vineyards

## WHITE WINES

MEDAL		WINE NAME	WINERY
GOLD	2013	Riesling	Talon Winery
SILVER	2013	Laughing Cat Riesling	Carlson Vineyards
SILVER	2014	Laughing Cat Sweet Baby White	Carlson Vineyards
SILVER	2013	Chardonnay	Grande River Vineyards
SILVER	2014	Cayuga White	Leroux Creek Winery
SILVER	2013	Viognier	Spero Winery
SILVER	2012	Viognier	Talon Winery
SILVER	2014	Riesling	Whitewater Hill Vineyards
BRONZE	2012	Cougar Run Chardonnay	Carlson Vineyards
BRONZE	2012	Viognier	Grande River Vineyards
BRONZE	2014	Viognier	Mesa Park Vineyards
BRONZE		Palisade Festival	Plum Creek Cellars
BRONZE	2014	Riesling	Reeder Mesa Vineyards
BRONZE	2012	Gewurtztraminer	Talon Winery
BRONZE	2012	Chardonnay	Vino Salida Wine Cellars
BRONZE	2014	Riesling	Whitewater Hill Vineyards

BRONZE	2012	Cougar Run Gewurtztraminer	Carlson Vineyards
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## ROSE WINES

MEDAL		WINE NAME	WINERY
SILVER	2013	Prairie Dog Blush	Carlson Vineyards
BRONZE	2013	Palisade Rose	Plum Creek Cellars
BRONZE	2013	Rosato	Talon Winery
BRONZE	2014	Melange Rose	Whitewater Hill Vineyards

## FRUIT WINES

MEDAL		WINE NAME	WINERY
SILVER	2014	Cherry	Carlson Vineyards
SILVER		Apple Blossom	St. Kathryn Cellar
BRONZE	2014	Peach	Carlson Vineyards
BRONZE		Cherry	St. Kathryn Cellar

## FORTIFIED WINES

MEDAL		WINE NAME	WINERY
BRONZE		Fortified Syrah	Debeque Canyon Winery

The winners will be on display at the Community Building all week during the Mesa County Fair, July 14th through July 18th. Many of the wines will also be featured in the Fair's **Wine Tasting Event** taking place in the gazebo on **Thursday, July 16th from 6pm to 8pm**. For tickets and information about the Wine Tasting Event (advance tickets include fair admission), visit [www.mesacountyfair.com](http://www.mesacountyfair.com).