

July 2011

The 2011 Comprehensive Judging is set to begin
Featuring Lake County's high elevation wines

LAKE COUNTY – The 2011 Lake County Wine Awards Competition is quickly approaching. A panel of 13 wine experts will blind-taste and judge all wines submitted and select the top finalists in each category.

Award winning wines will be featured at several events in August, September and November of 2011 including the People's Choice Wine Awards to be held at Langtry Estate in Lake County on November 5th. The August and September events will be at The Winery SF and in Tahoe.

The competition will take place at Brassfield Estate Winery located in the High Serenity Ranch area in the High Valley Appellation. "We are fortunate to have the support of winery owner Jerry Brassfield for our prestigious event," said Monica Rosenthal, executive director of the Lake County Winery Association. "We are proud to present the competition on the Estate grounds. Brassfield is representative of Lake County's high standards in winemaking. It is committed to sustainable practices and to 'Estate grown, produced, and bottled' wine."

"We are also privileged to have an excellent panel of judges and experienced director to help us with this year's competition," said Rosenthal.

Ray Johnson, director of Sonoma State University's Wine Business Institute, assistant director of the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition, and author of numerous articles and his blog *TasteWine* will preside as director for the professional judging.

The esteemed panel includes wine reviewers, wine publication editors, wine consultants, winemakers and wine educators with extensive experience, the Winery Association announced. Judges include Virginie Boone, John Buechenstein, Randy Caparoso, Tina Caputo, Mike and Martha Dunne, Catherine Fallis, Pamela Heiligenthal, Marc Hinton, Don Neel, Joe Roberts, Shauna Rosenblum, Clark Smith, and Deborah Parker Wong,

Boone is a contributing wine reviewer for *Wine Enthusiast* and she writes for the *Santa Rosa Press Democrat* and its affiliate *Savor Wine Country* magazine. She is also a regular contributor to *Zester Daily*, an online food and wine web site.

Among Buechenstein's qualifications as an award-winning winemaker and wine educator in California and held the position as chief operations officer of Sauvignon Republic Cellars, specializing in Sauvignon Blancs from around the world.

Caparoso is a Denver-based restaurant wine consultant and wine journalist who has been honored as *Sante Magazine's* first Wine & Spirits Professional of the Year (1998) and has twice received the *Restaurant Wine Magazine's* Wine Marketer of the Year honor.

Caputo is editor-in-chief for *Vineyard & Winery Management* magazine and a *Wine Review Online* columnist. Before joining *Vineyard & Winery Management* magazine in 2008, Caputo spent five years as the managing editor at *Wines & Vines* magazine.

Mike Dunne is a Sacramento-based freelance writer, concentrating on wine and travel. He contributes a weekly wine column to *The Sacramento Bee* and maintains the blog, *A Year In Wine*.

A seasoned participant in wine judgments, Martha Dunne is administrator of WineGigs.com, a Sacramento tour, tasting and consultation business.

Heiligenthal is *Enobytes* co-founder and contributor. She has a decade of experience working as a restaurant manager, wine buyer and sommelier with certification from the Court of Master Sommeliers and Wine & Spirit Education Trust.

Based in Portland, Hinton is also an *Enobytes* co-founder with over 20 years experience in the food and wine industry. A wine blogger contributor to OregonLive.com (Wine Bytes), Hinton has also appeared on California's Central Coast's "From the Growing of the Grape to the Glass" on KUHL-AM 1410.

For 30 years, publisher Neel has traveled through grapegrowing regions in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and Europe to obtain the best sources of high-quality winegrowing information to share with more than 3,000 subscribers and stimulate continuing improvement in the wine industry.

Roberts, founder of the 1WineDude.com wine blog is a wine consultant and musician in the greater Philadelphia area. He is a Certified Specialist of Wine, and holds intermediate and advanced Certificates in Wine & Spirits from the Wine & Spirit Education Trust (WSET) based in England.

Award-winning winemaker Rosenblum grew up a "cellar rat" in her father's Rosenblum Cellars in Alameda. In 2008, her family sold Rosenblum Cellars and started Rock Wall Wine Company where Shauna was named winemaker.

Smith is a wine consultant and educator teaching at a variety of universities and colleges including Fresno State, Davis, and Napa Valley. He serves as a wine judge at six different wine competitions and writes a monthly column, *The Postmodern Winemaker*, at WinesandVines.com.

Wong is the Northern California editor for *The Tasting Panel* magazine. She contributes frequently to industry publications including *Sommelier Journal*, *Vineyard & Winery Management* and *Cheers* magazines and writes a consumer drinks column for www.Examiner.com.

Results of the Lake County Wine Awards Competition will be posted July 30.