

MEDIA ADVISORY

Wine Experts to Gather in East Lansing for Michigan Wine and Spirits Competition

Who: Respected judges from around the country and across the state

What: **31st Annual Michigan Wine and Spirits Competition and Gold Medal Reception**

When: Competition – Tuesday, August 5, 2008 – 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Gold Medal Reception – Thursday, August 7, 2008 – 5-8 p.m.

Where: Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, East Lansing

- Judges include wine experts from around the country, including Master Sommeliers Madeline Triffon and Claudia Tyagi, as well as internationally known authors, winemakers and wine educators. A complete list is attached.
- Members of the media are invited to film and photograph the proceedings and interview judges. Arrange interviews and photo opportunities through Heather Throne at 517-373-1085 or throneh@michigan.gov. Please be aware that scent may not be worn by anyone entering the judging area.
- Members of the media are also invited to attend the Gold Medal Reception, where Best of Class trophies will be presented to winners of the top awards. Tickets for the public are \$40 and are available from the Kellogg Center at 517-432-4000.
- To view the complete competition materials, visit www.michiganwines.com and click on “Industry Resources.”
- Results will be faxed to fill media requests, and posted online at www.michiganwines.com.

Judges for the 2008 Michigan Wine & Spirits Competition

Christopher Cook, Superintendent

Ian Barry – Swedish Hill Winery

Joe Borrello – President, Tasters Guild International

Brian Cain – Viviano Wine Importers

David Creighton – Wine Writer and Veteran Judge

Amanda Danielson – Trattoria Stella

Michelle DeHayes – Matt Prentice Restaurant Group

Murli Dharmadhikari – Iowa State University

David Ethridge – President, Tasters Guild-Lapeer

Joel Goldberg – Publisher, michwine.com

Bill Harrison – Lawton Ridge Vineyards

Eleanor Heald – Wine Writer, Appellation America, Quarterly Review of Wines

Raymond Heald – Wine Writer, Appellation America, Quarterly Review of Wines

Giri Iyengar – US Wine Imports

Ann Littlefield – Wine Marketing Specialist and Professional Judge

Pat Maloney – Gilmore Collection

Roz Mayberry – Wine Buyer, D&W Fresh Market

Richard Scheer – Owner, Village Corner Wine Shop

Steve Scheffel – Wine Manager, Goodrich's ShopRite

Sandra Silfven – Wine Writer, Detroit News Wine Report

Ron Sobor – Wine Writer and Veteran Judge

Madeline Triffon – Master Sommelier; Director of Wine, Matt Prentice Restaurant Group

Claudia Tyagi – Master Sommelier, Consultant

James VanderKolk – Elite Brands