

Arizona Wine Growers

# FESTIVAL AT THE FARM



November 22, 2009

The Farm at South Mountain | Phoenix, Arizona  
[www.AZWineFestivalAtTheFarm.com](http://www.AZWineFestivalAtTheFarm.com)



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## Arizona's Top Award-Winning Wines Announced! Growers Make History at Inaugural Event

*The 1st Annual Arizona Wine Growers Festival at The Farm Debuted with Garden-Party Charm as Professional Tasting and People's Choice Winners Were Announced*

PHOENIX, Ariz. (November 25, 2009) -- You've come a long way, Arizona. And the proof is on the palate. And in the vineyards. And in the unprecedented tasting room crowds. And in the award winning Arizona wines crowned in last weekend's 1st annual Arizona Wine Growers Festival at The Farm.

Success is certainly fermenting in the Arizona wine industry. Just ask the 800 people who strolled through the storybook setting of The Farm at South Mountain to sip and celebrate Arizona's top wines this Sunday. After a day full of wine-soaked events, the Arizona Wine Growers Association (AWGA) announced the top winners of the professional tasting and the People's Choice Awards.

The event marked the first time that nearly all of the state's wineries joined together to shine a spotlight on Arizona wines. Festival goers were treated to hundreds of wines and a charming picnic lunch while participating in a People Choice tasting, educational seminars and a celebratory toast to the rising Arizona wine industry.

"We're more than just a desert," say Rhonni Boss, AWGA Executive Director. "Our wines have come along way! This festival and these awards announce Arizona as the next wine-growing state to watch!"

### The 2009 People's Choice Winners:

*Festival goers blind tasted the gold medal winners from our professional competition and chose their favorites during the event.*

- Arizona People's Choice White Winner: **Page Springs Cellars**- 2008 Vina de la Familia
- Arizona People's Choice Red Winner: **Callaghan**- 2007 Claire's
- Arizona People's Choice Red Winners (includes out of state fruit):
  - *A tie between:* **Alcantara**- 2006 Petite Sirah *and* **Caduceus**- 2007 Premier Paso

## The 2009 AWGA Professional Panel Award Winners:

*Wines were submitted to an independent professional wine tasting panel resulting in the following "best of the best" gold medal winners.*

- Arizona Grower's Cup White Winner: **Canelo Hills**- 2008 Malvasia
- Arizona Grower's Cup Red Winner: **Arizona Stronghold** - 2008 Nachise
- Arizona Grower's Cup Rose Winner: **Arizona Stronghold** - 2008 Dayden
- Arizona Winemaker's Medal Dessert Wine Winner: **Coronado Vineyards** - NV Dolce Veritas

*To celebrate all Arizona wine, two professional award types have been created. The Arizona Wine Grower's Cup Awards are presented to Arizona winemakers using 100% Arizona grown fruit. The Arizona Winemaker's Medals are presented to Arizona winemaker's who supplement their wine selections with grapes from out of state.*

## The 2009 Rootstock Award Winner:

Dr. Gordon Dutt of Sonoita Vineyards received the inaugural Rootstock Award, (called the Mother Vine Award for first recipient) bestowed upon an individual who has significantly contributed to the Arizona wine industry.

A detailed list of all award winners is available online at [www.ArizonaWine.org](http://www.ArizonaWine.org).

### About the Arizona Wine Growers Association

The Arizona Wine Growers Association (AWGA) is a non-profit group member organization celebrating Arizona's diverse wine country, grape growers and winemakers with education, marketing, and legislative support. Beyond the desert, Arizona's wine industry and regions stretch from the high country of the Verde Valley near Sedona's red rocks to the rolling hillsides of Sonoita and Elgin to the historic grasslands of Cochise County. The AWGA shines local and international attention on the rising Arizona wine industry and the people committed to producing distinct wines unique to the lush landscape of Arizona.

**Online at:** <http://www.arizonawine.org/>

### About the Farm at South Mountain

Known affectionately as "The Valley's Favorite Escape," the Farm at South Mountain has charmed Phoenix area residents and travelers with three restaurants, organic gardens, outdoor markets, an art gallery and wellness center. The Farm dates back to the 1920's when Dwight Heard of the Heard Museum purchased the property with the vision of encouraging sustainable lifestyles for those who acquired the land in the future. Today, the Farm still embodies that vision with thriving independent businesses, organic gardens and cultural events. The Farm at South Mountain is located just 8 minutes from downtown Phoenix at 6106 S. 32nd Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85042. **Online at**

<http://www.TheFarmAtSouthMountain.com>

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