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## **Morgan Creek earns honors at State Fair**

Wine exhibit a popular new attraction

ST. PAUL —

People taking in the final weekend of the Minnesota State Fair can find a little different offering at the Minnesota Wine Country exhibit.

The hall, located in the Ag-Hort Building, features Minnesota's wineries, including Morgan Creek, run by the Marti family near Cambria.

Morgan Creek took several awards at the event. Morgan Creek's Zeitgeist took first place in the white wine category, while its Saint John Reserve took first in the red wine category.

Morgan Creek's Relativity, Black Ice and Sweet Bliss also placed among the top wines in the competition.

All of the wines were grown, produced and bottled at Morgan Creek.

The grapes for the wines were developed by the University of Minnesota Grape Breeding program and are part of the cold climate viticulture program that has received worldwide attention.

The Zeitgeist and Saint John Reserve previously got national attention placing in the San Francisco competition and the Mid American Wine Competition in 2007.

Both wines were chosen to be served this Labor Day weekend at the Slow Food Nation taste event in San Francisco.

The 11 wineries participating in the Minnesota State Fair exhibit are members of the Minnesota Farm Winery Association.

Fairgoers can purchase a three-taste sampler of wines or wine by the glass, as well as cheese trays and wine ice cream.

Paul Quast, president of the Farm Winery Association, said the exhibit is a good way to showcase a growing industry in the state.

"[It's] a unique sampling of fine wines developing in Minnesota's newest agricultural movement," Quast said.