



MINNESOTA WINE, BEER, HISTORY TRAIL

**International Cold Climate Wine Competition discovers
“gold” in Southern Minnesota.**

Mankato, MN - In the opening ceremonies of the 2010 Minnesota State Fair, three member wineries of the *Sips of History Wine Trail*, all located in the Southern Minnesota River Valley, received gold medals and top honors in the ICCWC.

The local vintners producing “sips” of gold include: Morgan Creek Vineyards, New Ulm, awarded the “*Best of Show Specialty*” trophy in the Specialty/Fortified Wine category and received gold for their Black Ice, ice-style dessert wine; Fieldstone Vineyards, Redwood Falls, received double gold for Frontenac Rose’, and for LaCrescent; and Indian Island Winery, Janesville, took the “*Best of Show Red*” trophy and double gold for Marquette and Frontenac Rose’.

The wine makers who “struck gold” in Southern Minnesota, span three generations of cold climate wine making experience. Georg Marti, Morgan Creek Vineyards, the oldest of these wine makers began growing and producing cold climate varietals in 1993; Mark Wedge wine maker and co-owner of Fieldstone Vineyards began working with cold hardy wine grapes in 2002 and has expanded his experience as

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wine making consultant to start-up wineries around the State; and the youngest of the award winning wine makers is Angie Winter, new to the industry and opening her family winery this season.

All three wineries are members of the *Sips of History Wine Trail*, a unique assemblage of businesses and non-profit organizations that have formed a marketing association to tell the history of Southern Minnesota through five drinking vessels: the wine glass, beer mug, tea cup, punch cup, and the tin cup. At the present time the members include Croft Family Winery, Scott County Historical Society, Morgan Creek Vineyards, Blue Earth County Historical Society, James Hubbard House, August Schell Brewing Company, John Lind House, Fieldstone Vineyards, and the newest member, Indian Island Winery.

State Fair goers may sample wines produced by these and ten other Minnesota wineries at the Minnesota Wine Country Exhibit in the Ag/Hort Building from August 26 to September 6. "*Meet the Minnesota Wine Makers*" presentations will be offered daily at the exhibit Wine Stage. Fieldstone Vineyards day is September 4, and Morgan Creek Vineyards day at the fair is August 28.

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Photos available upon request.

For more information about the International Cold Climate Wine Competition, a project of the Minnesota Grape Growers Association, go to: www.iccwc.org.

www.mnriverwinebeerhistory.com

www.morgancreekvineyards.com - Paula Marti

www.fieldstonevineyards.com - Mark Wedge

www.indianislandwinery.com - Ray Winter

For Immediate Release

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