



HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO™ ANNOUNCES 2011 INTERNATIONAL WINE COMPETITION CHAMPIONS – NOV. 15, 2010 – HOUSTON – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo officials announced today the champion wines from the 2011 Rodeo Uncorked! International Wine Competition.

The eighth annual Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo International Wine Competition judging, held Nov. 13-14, 2010, at Reliant Center, boasted 1,789 wines from 591 wineries around the world. Sixteen countries participated in the competition and 1,147 medals were awarded by 15 panels of judges, consisting of local, national, and international wine experts.

2011 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo International Wine Competition Champions:

Grand Champion Best of Show – Alexander Valley Vineyards CYRUS, Alexander Valley, 2006

Reserve Grand Champion Best of Show – Stanton Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon, Oakville, 2007

Top Texas Wine – Becker Vineyards, Viognier, Texas, 2009

Top Spanish Wine – Acústic Cellar Blanc, Montsant, 2009

Top All-Around Winery – d’Arenberg, Australia

Top Wine Company –E&J Gallo Winery

Top Sparkling Wine – Heidsick & Co. Monopole Blue Top Brut, Reims, NV

Top White Wine – Vasse Felix Chardonnay, Margaret River, 2008

Top Red Wine – Vision Cellars Pinot Noir, Gary’s Vineyard, Santa Lucia Highlands, 2008

Top Sweet Wine – Dr. Konstantin Frank Vinifera Wine Cellars Riesling, Bunch Select Late Harvest, Finger Lakes, 2008

Top Value Wine – Fat Monk Merlot, Central Coast, 2009

Buckles, chaps and saddles will be awarded to the champions at the Rodeo Uncorked! Roundup and Best Bites Competition Sunday, Feb. 20, 2011, at Reliant Center. In addition to the champion wines, guests will sample food from area restaurants and catering institutions, and vote on their favorites in the Best Bites Competition. The top three restaurants or catering institutions will be named that evening.

All champion wines will be auctioned at the Rodeo Uncorked! Champion Wine Auction and Dinner Saturday, March 5, 2011, 6 p.m., Reliant Center, 600 series meeting rooms.

For tickets to these Rodeo Uncorked! events, visit www.rodeohouston.com, e-mail wine@rodeohouston.com or call 832.667.1128.

A selection of winning wines will be available for tasting, or by the glass and bottle, throughout the run of the Show in the Champion Wine Garden, located in Carruth Plaza. For more information, visit www.rodeohouston.com.

The 2011 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo runs March 1 – 20. The Show is a Section 501(c)(3) charitable event, dedicated to benefiting youth, supporting education, and facilitating better agricultural practices through exhibitions and presentation. Since its beginning in 1932, the Show has committed more than \$265 million to the youth of Texas. For more information on the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, visit www.rodeohouston.com.