

Plagido's Winery One of Only Four Wineries With Two Winning Wines in New Jersey Monthly's First Wine Competition

Hammonton, NJ-- The results are in for New Jersey Monthly's first blind tasting of Garden State wines. 26 New Jersey wineries entered the competition held at the Blue Morel in the Westin Governor Morris hotel in Morristown.

"We are pleased to have this opportunity to showcase the fruit of the state's wine industry," says New Jersey Monthly Editor Ken Schlager. "This is a growing industry in the Garden State and rightfully so. As our taste test indicated, there are many quality wines being produced in New Jersey, especially considering their consumer-friendly price points. We hope our March issue will inspire more New Jerseyans to give Jersey wines a try."

All of the wines in the competition were produced in New Jersey of Jersey-grown grapes or fruit. All of the winning wines are retail priced in the \$10-\$25 range.

Gold and silver winners were chosen in each of seven categories, a total of 14 winners in all. The winning wines represented 10 different wineries. Four wineries won in two categories: Amalthea Cellars; Cape May Winery & Vineyard; Valenzano Winery; and Plagido's Winery.

This was New Jersey Monthly's first wine competition. It was organized by wine expert Sharla Blanz, who writes the weekly "On the Vine" blog at njmonthly.com. Sharla hand-picked a panel of eight distinguished judges for the tasting:

- **Nicholas Harary**, chef/owner, Restaurant Nicholas in Red Bank
- **Brian Hider**, wine director, Pluckemin Inn in Bedminster
- **Tim Hirsch**, wine consultant, The Wine Library
- **Sue Guerra**, director of marketing, Gary's Wine & Marketplace
- **Gary Pavlis**, Rutgers University associate professor and chairman of the annual New Jersey Wine Competition
- **Sharon Sevrems**, owner of Amanti Vino in Montclair
- **George Staikos**, wine educator and sales consultant, the Educated Grape.
- **Pat Tanner**, food critic and blogger

Wine tasting winners:

Cabernet Sauvignon

Gold: Amalthea Cellars OCP Cabernet Sauvignon, 2008

Silver: Cape May Winery & Vineyard OCP Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve, 2008

Merlot

Gold: Valenzano Winery OCP Merlot, 2009

Silver: Auburn Road Vineyard & Winery Merlot Reserve, 2008

Cabernet Franc

Gold: Amalthea Cellars OCP Cabernet Franc, 2006

Silver: 4 JG's Vineyards OCP Cabernet Franc, 2008

Other Red

Gold: Valenzano Winery OCP Cabernet/Merlot, 2010

Silver: **Plagido's Winery OCP Chambourcin**

Chardonnay

Gold: Cape May Winery & Vineyard OCP Barrel Fermented Chardonnay, 2010

Silver: Hawk Haven Vineyard & Winery OCP Chardonnay, 2010

Other White

Gold: Bellview Winery OCP Traminette, 2010

Silver: Old York Cellars Pinot Gris, 2010

Fruit Wine

Gold: **Plagido's Winery Cranberry Wine**

Silver: Four Sisters Winery Mia's Blueberry, 2010