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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AWARD WINNER PHOTOS: <http://ow.ly/zFYA30fAMBi>

Sweepstakes Winning Wines Announced for Sonoma County Harvest Fair
Davis Family Vineyards, Balletto and Gloria Ferrer take home top awards

SANTA ROSA, CA – October 2, 2017 – The 2017 Sonoma County Harvest Fair Awards Night, sponsored by American AgCredit, took place on Sunday, October 1 at the Luther Burbank Center for the Arts. As the approximately 500 guests gathered, anticipation grew before the winners of the 2017 Sweepstakes Wine titles were revealed. This annual event provides an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the Sonoma County Harvest Fair award winners, as well as to pay tribute to important and influential individuals in the region's agriculture, wine and food industries.

At a reception prior to the main event, guests enjoyed the wines and culinary dishes that had earned high marks from this year's Harvest Fair judges. **(For a complete list of winners, go to www.harvestfair.org.)** Following the reception, attendees gathered in the theater to acknowledge the 2017 Agriculture Awards honorees and to finally learn the judges' choices for Sweepstakes titles. Those honorees and top winners are:

Agriculture Award Recipients

- Outstanding Young Person in Agribusiness: **Krishna Hendrickson**
- Outstanding Young Farmer: **Jana McClelland**
- Friend of Sonoma County Agriculture: **Pat Emery**
- Lifetime Contribution to Sonoma County Agriculture: **Audrey Sterling**
- Lifetime Contribution to Sonoma County Wine Industry "Methuselah Award": **Joe Rochioli**
- Excellence in Local Food Production: **La Tortilla Factory**
- Excellence in the Craft Beer Industry: **Lagunitas Brewing Co.**
- Sustainable Farmer Award (*sponsored by the Sonoma County Winegrowers*): **Joe Dutton & Steve Dutton**
- Sustainable Producer/Maker Award (*sponsored by the Sonoma County Winegrowers*): **Francis Ford Coppola Winery**

Sweepstakes Red Wine

Balletto
2014 Pinot Noir, Russian River Valley Estate
Anthony Beckman, Winemaker



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Sweepstakes White Wine

Davis Family Vineyards
2016 Chardonnay, Russian River Valley
Guy Davis, Winemaker

Sweepstakes Specialty Wine

Gloria Ferrer
2010 Anniversary Cuvee, Carneros
Steven Urberg, Winemaker

After the awards ceremony, guests savored a gourmet dinner provided by John Ash & Co., along with more award-winning wines. As is customary, the evening included a period of silence to honor those industry leaders lost during the past 12 months.

Come Taste the Winners and Enjoy the Bounty!

The 2017 Sonoma County Harvest Fair takes place October 6, 7 & 8 at the Sonoma County Event Center at the Fairgrounds. Opening day hours are 4:00pm – 9:00pm, with the Grand Tasting Pavilion open from 5:00pm – 8:00pm. Saturday and Sunday Harvest Fair hours are 11:00am – 5:00pm, and the Grand Tasting Pavilion hours are 1:00pm – 4:00pm.

This lavish Grand Tasting experience includes food and wine from the professional competitions, as well as local craft beers and ciders. Grand Tasting tickets are \$65.00 and includes gate admission.

Harvest Fair gate admission is just \$5.00. Admission includes entrance to the Wine Country Marketplace, a variety of workshops and seminars, cooking demonstrations and the World Championship Grape Stomp.

To learn more, visit HarvestFair.org, call (707) 545-4200 or find "Sonoma County Harvest Fair" on Facebook.

About the Sonoma County Harvest Fair

The Sonoma County Harvest Fair celebrates the region's abundant growing season and the delectable outcomes inspired by the area's hardworking ranchers and farmers, along with its acclaimed vintners and noted chefs. Now in its fourth decade, the Harvest Fair attracts local and greater Bay Area residents, as well as visitors from across the globe, to the Sonoma County Event Center at the Fairgrounds in Santa Rosa for an annual celebration of the wine and food that make Sonoma County one of the world's favorite wine regions. The Fair's bounty includes wine from over 100 area wineries, regional craft beer and cider, and culinary delights from the area's most accomplished food artisans. Attendees will also find an array of activities to choose from, like the World Championship Grape Stomp, workshops, cooking demonstrations and seminars.

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