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**MARYLAND WINERIES ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES WINNERS FROM THE 28TH ANNUAL
MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S CUP COMPETITION**

Over 150 Maryland-Grown Wines from Across the State Competed for Prestigious Award

August 26, 2016 (Baltimore, MD) – The Maryland Wineries Association proudly announces **the winners of the 28th Annual Maryland Governor's Cup Competition**. The judging for the prestigious awards took place on Sunday, August 14 at the Baltimore Center Club with over 29 wine experts from the region who tasted over 150 different wines, including sparkling, whites, rosés and reds. Gold medal-winning wines competed for Best in Class and Best in Show honors. Boordy Vineyards Albariño 2015 earned the Governor's Cup Best in Show and Big Cork Vineyard's Black Cap NV was awarded the Jack Aellen Cup Winner, a new award this year. For a complete list of winners or to find out additional information about Maryland Wines, log onto www.marylandwine.com.

"We are enormously proud that our Albariño is the winner of the 2016 Maryland Governor's Cup, especially given the overall quality and number of wines entered in the competition. Reflecting on our decision in 2012 to plant a 4-acre block of Albariño on a rocky, east-facing slope at our South Mountain vineyard, we believed that this variety would have a very bright future in the Maryland wine industry, and are pleased to see that the judges agree. Our sincerest thanks to Al Spoler and the Grow & Fortify team for running a top flight competition," said Phineas Deford, vice president for Boordy Vineyards in Baltimore County.

The Jack Aellen Cup is new to the competition this year and specifically highlights fruit wine, cider and mead. The cup is named after Linganore Winecellars founder, Jack Aellen, who pioneered wines from fruit and honey in Maryland. The inaugural "Jack Aellen Cup" will be presented annually alongside the Governor's Cup.

"I was very pleased to see that all of our wines were so highly regarded by the judges. It's an honor to receive the Jack Aellen Cup - I lift a toast to Mr. Aellen, who was such a bold pioneer in the early years of Maryland Winemaking," said Dave Collins, Winemaker for Big Cork Vineyards.

Competition Director Al Spoler continues to be impressed by the world-class wines coming out of Maryland, "We held the 2016 Governor's Cup at Baltimore's prestigious Center Club, and the wines certainly rose to the occasion. Although we had a very tough and discerning judging panel, nearly one quarter of the wines took home a gold. All of our well-established wineries did well, but so did a number of newcomers, which is very encouraging for our industry's future," said Spoler.

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Awards will be presented in September at an event with state representatives.

2016 Maryland Governor's Cup Competition Results

Best in Show

Governor's Cup Winner: Boordy Vineyards • Albariño 2015 (Baltimore Co.)

Jack Aellen Cup Winner: Big Cork Vineyards • Black Cap NV (Washington Co.)

Best in Class

Best White: Boordy Vineyards • Albariño 2015 (Baltimore Co.)

Best White Blend: Turkey Point Vineyard • Lighthouse White 2015 (Cecil Co.)

Best Rosé: Crow Vineyard • 2015 Barbera Rosé 2015 (Kent Co.)

Best Red: Catoctin Breeze Vineyard • Estate Cabernet Franc 2013 (Frederick Co.)

Best Red Blend: Linganore Winecellars • Cabernet Reserve 2014 (Frederick Co.)

Best Fruit: Big Cork Vineyards • Black Cap NV (Washington Co.)

Best Cider: Great Shoals Winery • Hard Strawberry 2016 (Montgomery Co.)

Best Dessert: Big Cork Vineyards • Vidal Ice 2014 (Washington Co.)

About the Maryland Wineries Association

The Maryland Wineries Association is a non-profit trade organization representing Maryland's 75+ wineries. Founded in 1984, the MWA's mission is to develop and expand the grape and wine industry in Maryland through events, education and promotion. From the Eastern Shore to mountains of Western Maryland, and south to St. Mary's County, wine is growing throughout Maryland.

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