

**Town of Bernalillo
Office of the Mayor**

P r e s s R e l e a s e

For More Information Contact:
Mayor Patricia A. Chávez, 505-771-7129

**MAYOR INTRODUCES WINE COMPETITION TO
THE NEW MEXICO WINE FESTIVAL AT BERNALILLO**

Bernalillo, NM – August 24, 2006 – The Town of Bernalillo held the first annual wine competition of the 2006 New Mexico Wine Festival at Bernalillo at the Santa Ana Star Casino. The competition was open to participating wineries using New Mexico grapes/fruit/honey/other in the making of their wine and have the wine available for purchase at the festival. The wines were tasted in a blind format and evaluated on the following criteria: color/clarity, bouquet/aroma, balance/body, flavors/taste, length/finish and overall impression. Awarding winning wines received a judging consensus to be eligible for honors. Mayor Patricia A. Chávez will formally present awards to top scoring wines at the festival on Sunday, September 3, 2006 at 1:00 p.m.

“As one of the founding members of the New Mexico Wine Festival at Bernalillo, I am pleased to add a new element to the festival this year”, states Mayor Patricia A. Chávez. “It is an opportunity for the Town of Bernalillo to recognize wineries and winemakers for refining the quality of wines made in and of New Mexico fruits. I am impressed with the professional evaluation and execution of the wine competition, and honored by the support of the participating wineries. I look forward to making this annual event the talent showcase of New Mexico winery and vineyard professionals.”

The wine competition awards, beginning with the top **BEST OF FESTIVAL MEDAL**, which is granted to one wine with the overall winning score without regard to varietal or category. This coveted honor goes to

– **D.H. Lescombes, Cabernet Sauvignon – 2002.**

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Next are the **BEST OF CLASS** medals for the excellent and outstanding wine in the following categories: Sparking, White, Blush, Red and Other wines. Rounding off the competition are the select **GOLD AND SILVER MEDALS** representing all categories and varietals.

The award winning wines are:

BEST OF FESTIVAL MEDAL – D.H. Lescombes, Cabernet Sauvignon – 2002

BEST OF CLASS – SPARKLING WINE – Gruet, Demi Sec NV

BEST OF CLASS – WHITE WINE – D.H. Lescombes, Chenin Blanc – 2005

BEST OF CLASS – BLUSH WINE – St. Clair Winery, White Zinfandel – NV

BEST OF CLASS – RED WINE – St. Clair Winery, Cellarmaster’s Zinfandel – NV

BEST OF CLASS – OTHER WINES – Arena Blanca Winery, Chocolate Diablo – NV

GOLD MEDAL WINNERS:

- 1. Blue Teal Vineyards, Shiraz – 2005**
- 2. D.H. Lescombes, Syrah – 2005**
- 3. Santa Fe Vineyards, Harvest Gold, Muscat Canelli – 2005**
- 4. D.H. Lescombes, Orange Muscat, Muscatt Canelli – NV**
- 5. Blue Teal Vineyard, Muscatt Canelli – 2005**

SILVER MEDAL WINNERS:

- 1. St. Clair Winery, Malvasia – NV**
- 2. Blue Teal Vineyards, White Zinfandel – NV**
- 3. Luna Rossa Winery, Primo Dulce – 2003**
- 4. Luna Rossa Winery, Refosco – 2004**
- 5. D.H. Lescombes, Cabernet Sauvignon – 2003**
- 6. Blue Teal Vineyards, Cabernet Sauvignon – 2004**
- 7. Luna Rossa Winery, Muscat – 2002**
- 8. Anasazi Fields, Rojo Seco - NV**

The festival will be held on Labor Day weekend, September 2-4 at Loretto Park in Bernalillo.

Go to [www.\\TownofBernalillo.org](http://www.TownofBernalillo.org) for festival details.