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Town of Bernalillo Office of the Mayor

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Bernalillo, NM –July 14, 2008 Mayor Patricia A. Chávez and the Town of Bernalillo MainStreet program announce “Harvest” by Laguna Pueblo artist Andrew Rodriguez as the commemorative poster art for the 2008 New Mexico Wine Festival at Bernalillo event. “Harvest” was one of more than thirty submissions in this year’s poster competition. “The New Mexico Wine Festival is a signature event for Bernalillo”, notes Mayor Chávez. “This piece adds nicely to the unique qualities of the event and the commemorative poster expanding and complimenting the Town’s impressive original artwork and poster collection”, she said.

The image, a terra cotta bas-relief, depicts the image of a Madonna emerging from the clay with an abundant offering of the grape harvest. “With the thought of grapes in my imagination, I was immediately struck with a sense of the piece coming together”, said the artist. “This work is dramatically different from my usual style and an exciting venture for me as an artist.” The three dimensional image in clay will be reproduced in photographic format for the poster.

Andrew Rodriguez is a highly acclaimed artist whose work has nationwide gallery representation and is collected throughout the United States and Europe. Andrew attended the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) in Santa Fe, New Mexico where he studied sculpture under the renowned Native American painter and Modernist sculptor Allen Houser (1914-1994). Andrew’s numerous citations and awards include First Place in the 2005 Southwest Association for Indian Arts and a Fellowship Award from the same institution in 2001. He was the featured New Mexico artist in the 2000/2001 television series of “Home and Garden” and he has been published in “Southwest Art Magazine”, “New Mexico Magazine”, and the “Santa Fe Indian Market Book”.

“The popularity of this image was impressive, considering that it is the first we’ve ever received of a media that is not traditionally considered poster art”, commented Maria Rinaldi, Director of Community Development for the Town of Bernalillo. “I’m certain the positive reaction “Harvest” received in the poster completion will carry over well into the publicity campaign of the festival”.

“Harvest” is the twenty-first image to grace the New Mexico Wine Festival poster commemorative collection that boasts such names as RC Gorman, Betty Sabo, Paul Sanchez, David Chavez, Marcellus Medina and Rudi Klimpert. The poster will go on sale in mid-July for \$10.00. A limited edition of 200 posters with the artist’s signature will be sold for \$20.00 at the festival and at poster signing events to be announced prior to the festival.

The Town of Bernalillo through its MainStreet program sponsors the New Mexico Wine Festival as an economic and tourism development project. The American Bus Association has named the event a “Top 100 Event in North America”. The 2008 New Mexico Wine Festival at Bernalillo will be held on Labor Day weekend, August 30 – September 1 at Loretto Park. Go to [www.\\TownofBernalillo.org](http://www.TownofBernalillo.org) for more festival information.