

Judges in Sonoma-based Competition Confirm New Mexico Wine Is Outstanding

DEMING, N.M., Feb. 10, 2009 -- Southwest Wines' 2007 DH Lescombes Cabernet Franc Limited Release was honored at the 2009 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition last month as one of only six wines given a best-of-the-best Sweepstakes Award. The Cabernet Franc won in the "Red Sweepstakes" category, making Southwest Wines the first New Mexico winery to win this coveted award. As a Sweepstakes winner, the Cabernet Franc will be among the wines showcased at the Annual Public Tasting, held at Fort Mason Center's Festival Pavilion in San Francisco, February 28, 2009.

"In a competition traditionally dominated by West Coast wines, the Cabernet Franc from Southwest Wines has demonstrated the potential and the capability of New Mexico wine growers to create outstanding wines," said Ray Johnson, Assistant Director of the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition.

"We congratulate Southwest Wines for their win . . . hand-selected out of 4,765 wines entered," said Executive Director Bob Fraser. Southwest Wines received 15 medals overall, including two gold medals for the 2007 DH Lescombes Mourvèdre Limited Release and the NV St. Clair Port. For a complete list of Southwest Wines' medal winners, please go to <http://www.southwestwines.com/awards.html>.

"Much like the Judgment of Paris in the '70s, when California wines were first honored at an international tasting, this competition has drawn attention to the excellence of the wines being produced in the Southwest," said Hervé Lescombes, President of Southwest Wines.

Wine enthusiasts throughout the country may purchase the 2007 DH Lescombes Cabernet Franc at the winery, on <http://www.southwestwines.com/> or by calling 1-888-SWWINES (one bottle per customer limit). It will be available this summer at fine restaurants throughout the United States.

Southwest Wines has been receiving top honors since 2005, including unanimous gold, double gold, gold, the 2008 Vina Cum Laude Award (for DH Lescombes Syrah) at the Wine Literary Awards (San Francisco) and a Gold Medal for the DH Lescombes Cabernet Franc Limited Reserve at the 2008 American Fine Wine Competition.