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Lucas & Lewellen Vineyards Celebrates Award Winning Wines

Gold Medals & Best of Class award affirm Santa Barbara County vision and expertise.

July 15, 2013 Santa Barbara County, CA – The collaboration of meticulous vineyard management and an experienced winemaking team are resulting in Lucas & Lewellen wines that are turning heads at winemaking competitions. The estate vineyards include 400 acres planted with 25 varietals in three Santa Barbara County microclimates: the Santa Maria Valley, the Los Alamos Valley, and the Santa Ynez Valley.

Director of Winemaking Megan McGrath Gates and Viticulturist Louis Lucas, who owns the label with Royce Lewellen, are elated with the continued recognition of these distinctive small lot wines.

Recently, nearly two-dozen medals were awarded to Lucas and Lewellen wines in four 2013 competitions that featured thousands of wines. Some of the awards designated to Lucas & Lewellen wines include a Double-Gold, three Gold Medals and a highly coveted “Best of Class”:

- San Francisco International Wine Competition, Gold Medal – Lucas & Lewellen 2008 “Clone 6” Cabernet Sauvignon
- San Francisco Rhone Wine Competition – “Double-Gold” -- Lucas & Lewellen 2009 Syrah
- Central Coast Wine Competition, Gold Medal and “Best of Class” – Lucas & Lewellen 2010 Malbec
- Orange County Commercial Wine Competition, Gold Medal – Lucas & Lewellen 2007 Petit Verdot.

While tasting the awarded wines for individual video segments to be broadcasted on the Lucas & Lewellen YouTube site, McGrath Gates and Lucas had time to evaluate the attributes of each wine, and they are many.

Clone 6 Cab: The San Francisco International Wine Competition is the largest competition of American wines in the world. The Cabernet Sauvignon category is highly valued. The judges awarded a Gold Medal for the 2008 “Clone 6” Cabernet Sauvignon, which is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon grown in the Valley View

Vineyard in the Santa Ynez Valley. This wine has a layered complexity of vanilla, fig and little bit of cocoa and coffee. As Louis Lucas said, “This is what a great wine is supposed to be.”

Syrah: Louis Lucas noted the 2009 vintage is typical of Syrah with a little bit of bacon coming from our few rows of Syrah Noir, a unique clone with sparse berries in the bunches that mature fully. It also contains grapes from the Estrella clone which is noted for its grape fruitiness. Together, these clones create a complex wine with hints of French oak. It’s almost creamy.

Malbec: The 2010 Malbec singled out as Best of Class and a Gold Medal by Central Coast Wine Competition, is also grown in the Valley View Vineyard. It is a nicely integrated, classic Malbec with silky, soft tannins. McGrath Gates said the double-Gold-Best of Class distinction, “Affirms all of the hard worth that we’ve done.”

2007 Petit Verdot: In classic Bordeaux Petit Verdot is often utilized for blending purposes, but the Lucas & Lewellen wine team wisely decided that blending away such a beautiful wine would be unjust. It’s grown at the crest of hill overlooking the Santa Ynez River. The inky, dark red wine is full of violet scents and dark stone fruit.

The Lucas & Lewellen wine brand was created by Louis Lucas and retired Judge Royce Lewellen in the 1990’s. Their goal was to produce quality estate wines in the acclaimed Santa Barbara County region at a reasonable price. Megan McGrath-Gates is a Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo soils sciences graduate, who earned her Certificate in Winemaking from UC Davis. She works closely with Lucas & Lewellen co-owner, acclaimed viticulturist Louis Lucas, for choosing the right wine variety matched to the appropriate soil, weather and management decisions, which allow vineyards to produce wines of complexity and balance.

Wine lovers may order the wines online at www.LLwine.com, while they are available. Lucas & Lewellen wines are available in 25 states nationwide and in select foreign markets.

Michael Hartmann is Director of Sales overseeing the network of retailers and salespeople.

The Lucas & Lewellen Tasting Room is located in the village of Solvang at:
1645 Copenhagen Drive-Solvang, CA - open daily from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For more information about the awards, and to request bottle shots for publication contact:
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