

Contact: Daniel McLaughlin P.O Box 20112
North Carolina Fine Wines Society Winston-Salem, NC 27120
Phone 336-499-2045
Info@NCFineWines.com

**North Carolina Fine
Wines Society**

Press Release

North Carolina Fine Wines Society Awards Gala

Inaugural Awards Gala to be held February 18th in Winston-Salem

Winston-Salem, North Carolina, February 15, 2017: The North Carolina Fine Wine industry and public will soon discover the top twelve wines in the 2017 North Carolina Fine Wines Case over a gourmet six course wine dinner at the Millennium Center in Winston-Salem. On January 30 & 31st, 146 wines submitted by 40 vineyards were judged by eight Advanced Level Sommeliers at the Graylyn Center in Winston-Salem, and the results have been held confidential until this event. Fine Wines are those wines you would find on wine menus around the world, like Chardonnay, Riesling, Merlot, and Cabernet Sauvignon.

“The high standards of this competition are like no other we have been able to identify” said Jay Raffaldini, President of the NC Fine Wines Society. “We wanted a competition that was both professionally run and transparent. And the most important feature of this competition is the feedback vineyards will receive from the eight Advanced Sommeliers.” The sommeliers judged the wines using the Wine Spectator 100 point scale, only knowing the grape and category of the wine. Judges were not allowed to discuss the wines until after all scoring was complete.

The North Carolina Fine Wines Society and this competition were born in conversations going back to the spring of 2015 when Chuck Jones of Jones von Drehle Vineyards, and Jay Raffaldini, owner of Raffaldini Vineyards pondered how to help raise the profile of North Carolina wines. Their vision created the society and its two goals; to promote the quality of North Carolina fine wines and to raise scholarships for North Carolina students pursuing wine related careers in North Carolina colleges and universities.

The vineyards represented in the 2017 NC Fine Wines Case will be pouring their winning wines alongside gourmet hors d'oeuvres at three exclusive events celebrating “Fine Wines in Fine Spaces” at the Umstead Hotel & Spa in Cary on February 28th, the Duke Mansion in Charlotte on March 14th, and the Omni Grove Park Inn in Asheville on March 28th. Each of the venues has only 200 tickets available to taste the wines and enjoy this great opportunity to experience the best of North Carolina Wines in one location.

For more information on event tickets and scholarships, please visit www.NCFineWines.com or email Info@NCFineWines.com.

For Release February 15, 2017 8:00 AM