



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
July 30, 2020
Contact: Kira Smelser
Phone: 585-624-5555
ksmelser@campgooddays.org

Despite COVID-19, 20th Annual Finger Lakes International Wine & Spirits Competition a Success

New York comes out on top for “Best Of” categories

Mendon, NY~ The 20th Annual Finger Lakes International Wine & Spirits Competition (FLIWC) was held July 14-16 and 20-21, 2020. All proceeds from the competition benefit the children and families of Camp Good Days & Special Times affected by cancer and sickle cell anemia.

Started 20 years ago, the Finger Lakes International Wine & Spirits Competition has become one of the largest charitable wine and spirits competitions in the world to be run by a nonprofit organization. This year’s competition attracted over 2,000 entries from 12 countries, 34 states and 4 provinces. The entries were judged by a distinguished group of judges composed of sommeliers, wine makers, wine writers, and experienced spirits judges. All wines and spirits were presented blind to the panel of judges with only the varietal or blend identified. No indication of geography, vintage, or price point was shared, ensuring total unbiased evaluation given to each wine and spirit. The judges awarded bronze, silver and gold medals, and where it was unanimous, double gold.

Due to COVID-19 concerns, the FLIWC, usually held in April, was rescheduled to July, and the following Camp Good Days Wine Auction Dinner, usually held in November, will be rescheduled to an online auction. The Camp Good Days Auction will feature medal winning wines and spirits from the competition along with other valuable items.

Significant changes were made to the competition to make sure that the health and safety of all involved was at the forefront during the COVID-19 pandemic. The competition was completely re-engineered to enable 15 judges in five panels of three, supported by 30 volunteers and staff, to evaluate the entries safely. All judges and volunteers who participated were required to live

within a region of low infection and were required to drive to the competition, so no commercial flying was involved. To further protect against COVID-19, all judges and volunteers were required to wear masks when not able to socially distance and were required to do temperature and wellness checks before entering the facilities each day of the competition. The wine portion of the competition was held down at the Camp Good Days recreational facility on Keuka Lake on July 14-16, 2020 and the spirits portion of the competition was held at the headquarters office in Mendon, NY on July 20 and 21, 2020.

New York and Canadian wines came out on top this year, each winning two of the “Best Of” categories. The wines that won the “Best Of” categories are:

Medal	Winery	Brand	Vintage	Website	State	Country
Best Cabernet Franc	Snowy Peaks Winery	Cabernet Franc 2018	2018	snowyspeakswinery.com	Colorado	United States
Best Cabernet Sauvignon	Plagido’s Winery	2017 Cabernet Sauvignon	2017	Plagidoswinery.com	New Jersey	United States
Best Chardonnay	Vignoble de l’Orpailleur	Orpailleur Chardonnay	2018	Orpailleur.ca		Canada
Best Fruit	Vinarstvo Miluron	Visnove Vino 2019	2019	Miluron.sk/gb		Slovakia
Best Ice Wine	Willow Springs Winery	Testa 2017 Vidal Icewine	2017	Willowspringswinery.com		Canada
Best Merlot	Chateau Valtice	Chateau Valtice Merlot Premium Collection 2017	2017	Vsvaltice.cz		Czech Republic
Best Riesling	Idol Ridge Winery	Riesling	2018	Idolridge.com	New York	United States
Best Sparkling	Sparkling Pointe	Sparkling Pointe Brut Seduction 2008	2008	Sparklingpointe.com	New York	United States

New York spirits also came out on top this year, winning three of the “Best Of” categories. The spirits that won the “Best Of” categories are:

Medal	Winery/Distillery	Brand	Vintage	Website	State	Country
Best Brandy	Black Ring Distillery	Discord Apple Brandy	NV	Blackringspirits.com	Washington	United States
Best Vodka	ROC House Brands	Recipe 21 Vodka	2020	Rochosebrands.com	New York	United States
Best Whiskey	ROC House Brands	Cask & Crew Rye Whiskey	2017	Rochosebrands.com	New York	United States
Best Bourbon	Swede Hill Distilling	Single Barrel American Whiskey	NV	Swedehilldistilling.com	Washington	United States
Best Gin	Glencoe Distillery	GinWillis Gin	2020	Distillerytrail.com	New Mexico	United States
Best Liqueur	Glencoe Distillery	Sacred Grounds	2020	Distillerytrail.com	New Mexico	United States
Best Rum	ROC House Brands	Auténtico	2005	Rochosebrands.com		Panama

		Nativo 15 Year Aged Rum				
Best Flavored Whiskey	Iron Smoke Distillery	Rattlesnake Rosie's Maple Bacon Whiskey	NV	Ironsmokedistillery.com	New York	United States

For more information about the winning wines and spirits, and the Camp Good Days Auction, please visit the FLIWC website at www.fliwc-cgd.com.

MORE ABOUT CAMP GOOD DAYS AND SPECIAL TIMES:

Camp Good Days and Special Times, a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for children, adults and families whose lives have been touched by cancer and other life threatening challenges, was founded by Gary Mervis in 1979, following the diagnosis of his youngest daughter, Teddi, with a malignant brain tumor. What was started to provide Teddi and 62 other children with cancer (21 from Rochester, 21 from Buffalo, 21 from Syracuse) with a residential camping experience has grown to become one of the largest organizations of its kind, having served as model for other organizations and cancer treatment centers around the world. Providing residential camping programs and year-round recreational and support activities and events, Camp Good Days has served more than 50,000 campers from 22 states and 36 foreign countries.

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