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Contact:
Jill Golden
Marketing & Communications Director
jill@sonomafilmfest.org
M: 510.851.2374

**SONOMA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
ANNOUNCES SIFF WINE AWARDS WINNERS**

4th Annual Event Draws Slate of More Than 45 Participating Wineries

Sonoma, CA, April 30, 2021 — In celebration of its wine country roots, Sonoma International Film Festival (SIFF) held its fourth annual Wine Awards to commemorate Wine Month in Sonoma County. Ten wineries took the top prize at the SIFF | Safe Harbor Wine Storage Wine Awards, presented by San Francisco Magazine, held at the Zina Lounge at the Ledson Hotel.

This year's award highlights include: perennial winner Anaba Wines, which has won an award all four years, a tie in the Best Pinor Noir category between Bee Hunter Wines and Talisman, and a double win for En Garde which won in two of the 10 categories this year.

Led by noted sommelier, consultant and educator Christopher Sawyer, a panel of tasting experts profiled more than 90 varietal submissions, paring down the winners in 10 categories.

"The SIFF Wine Awards not only gives us a chance to highlight the premier wines and wineries our region is known for, it also allows us a platform to elevate and thank the many winery partners that SIFF showcases annually during our festival which is part of our best in film, food, wine and fun DNA," said SIFF Artistic Director Kevin W. McNeely.

"It's very impressive to see the long list of gold medal winners from this year's wine awards at the Sonoma International Film Festival," said sommelier Christopher Sawyer. "As a whole, each of these winning wines represents such a great statement about the world-class offerings crafted in Sonoma, Napa and Mendocino counties, as well as the special link between these fantastic wineries and the amazing film festival that developed this one-of-a-kind wine competition four years ago."

The video award presentation includes tasting notes from Sawyer who hosts with SIFF Co-Director Ginny Krieger, and features opening remarks from SIFF Artistic Director McNeely and presenting sponsor San Francisco Magazine Market President Walter Kupiec. The video presentation is available to view on the SIFF Vimeo channel at <https://vimeo.com/showcase/8407366>.

The SIFF Wine Awards are part of SIFF's year-round programming which includes its annual five-day festival in March, a monthly virtual screening series, SIFF Saturdays on the last Saturday of every month; select special screenings and events throughout the year; and its upcoming SIFF Summerfest August 5-8.

2021 Wine Award Winners:

Best Sparkling Wine

Gloria Ferrer 2010 Carneros Cuvee

Best Aromatic White

Jeff Cohn Cellars
2017 The First Date

Best Pink Wine

Canihan
2020 Sonoma County Rose

Best Chardonnay

Ledson
2019 Russian River Chardonnay

Best Pinot Noir (Tie)

Talisman
2016 Weir Vineyard Pinot Noir Yorkville Highlands

Best Pinot Noir (Tie)

Bee Hunter Wines
2016 Pinot Noir 'Oppenlander Vineyard' Mendocino (Comptche)

Best Red Wine Blend

Caddis
2018 Sonoma Valley Angler Red Blend

Best Cabernet Sauvignon

En Garde
2017 Le Bijou du Roi Diamond Mountain District

Best Zinfandel

Gehricke
2018 Russian River Zinfandel

Best White Dessert Wine

Anaba
2018 Late Harvest Viognier

Best Red Dessert Wine

En Garde
Grand Vin De Dessert (Ruby Port)

About Sonoma International Film Festival

The Sonoma International Film Festival is a 501(c)3 corporation dedicated to promoting independent film, supporting filmmakers around the world, and inspiring film lovers. Blending a program of world-class film, food, wine and fun, SIFF celebrates its 25th Anniversary March 23-27, 2022.

Renowned filmmakers, industry leaders and celebrity attendees include: Francis Ford Coppola, Susan Sarandon, Robin Williams, Robert Kamen, Mary-Louise Parker, Bythe Danner, Dominique Crenn, Demián Bichir, Danny Glover, Karen Allen, Michael Keaton, Julia Ormond, John Lasseter, Meg Ryan, Alexander Payne, Fionnula Flanagan, Jena Malone, Jon Favreau, Joe Pantoliano, Tony Shaloub, Melissa Leo, Patricia Heaton, Brooke Adams, Tyler Florence, Melissa Joan Hart, David Arquette, Lauren Hutton, Demi Moore, David Duchovny, Christopher Lloyd, John Waters, Jude Law, Ray Liotta, and Bruce Willis, among others.

SIFF's signature initiative--the Media Arts Program started at Sonoma Valley High School in 2002--introduces students to the process of storytelling and provides the resources for them to create films. SIFF has granted more than \$650,000 to the program since its inception.

Over the past 24 years, the Sonoma International Film Festival has received the support of many incredible sponsors including Premiere Sponsors: Dolby, Manitou Fund, *Sonoma Magazine*, *Sonoma Index-Tribune* and Spritz; Star Sponsors: Bank of Marin, Devour!, Film Shasta, Sheppard Mullin, Twilio and Wall Street Journal; Film Sponsors: Susan Atherton, Bar None's Canyon Winery, Better Homes & Gardens | Wine Country Group, Bevan & Associates, Christine Curry Design, Eyeball Engineering, Franklin University Switzerland, Krieger Brothers, Landers Curry, Inc., the McNeely Family, Meadowcroft, Modern Art West, Muscardini, Music Nomad, National Association of Social Workers, Pets Lifeline, Sonoma Community Center, Sonoma Valley Authors Festival, Sweetwater Spectrum and Unali Events, and donors Amar A. Archbold and Cathy and Chuck Williamson. More than 50 additional sponsors also partner with SIFF through Community, Wine | Beverage, Media and Government support including Sonoma County Tourism, and SIFF Saturdays sponsor Safe Harbor Wine Storage.

For more information visit sonomafilmfest.org.

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