



## Medals? Buckles? Chaps? Saddles? It all adds up to A Great Local Endorsement by Charles M. Bear Dalton



It is THAT time of year again. No not Thanksgiving (that's past). Not Christmas (still four weeks in the future). Rather, it is time to release the winners of the 2011 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo International Wine Competition. Why 2011 when it is still 2010? Because this competition is part of the 2011 "show year" for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and the public events associated with it, namely Rodeo Uncorked Round Up & Best Bites and the Champion Wine Auction & Dinner.

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo's International Wine competition is just that – International. This eighth iteration featured 1789 entries from 16 countries and 8 states. On Saturday November 13th, 75 judges divided into 15 panels to taste over 110 wines per panel. The wines to be tasted were divided into 81 classes (Brut Sparkling Wines, Dry Rosé, Unwooded Pinot Gris, Cabernet Sauvignon under \$12, Cabernet Sauvignon from \$12.01 to \$20, etc.). Some classes contained 50 or more entries and one class had only one entry. Assignment of classes to judging panels was random. Each panel head found out the sort of wines their panel would be judging only when they sat down in their judging carrel on Saturday morning.

As one of two "marshals" of the competition (a job I have held in all eight years of the competition), I was one of a very few able to move back and forth between the judging area and the back room where the wines were being organized into tasting flights and poured. Along with my fellow marshal (and current Wine Committees general chairman) Stephanie Baird, my job was to settle questions regarding the rules of the competition, to help in evaluating whether a flawed wine the panel was tasting was from a flawed bottle or if all the wine was flawed, and generally to solve small problems before they became big issues. Due to the experienced back room, scoring, and logistical folks, everything went smoothly.

By the end of the day Saturday, over 1750 wines had been tasted and all the panels save one had finished their work. They had tasted all the wines and voted either no medal, bronze, silver, or gold on each. A wine had to get three of a kind or better and have no more than one "no medal" vote to earn a certain medal. So four bronze votes and one no-medal vote equals a bronze medal but two bronze votes, one silver vote, and one gold vote also equals a bronze medal. One bronze vote, two silvers, and a gold vote equals a silver medal as does five silver votes. Three gold votes with one bronze and one "no medal" would equal the weakest gold medal. Four gold votes and one silver vote equals the strongest gold medal because five gold votes equals a "double gold medal". Remember: three gold votes and two no-medal votes equals no medal

By the time that last panel finished tasting at about 10am on Sunday morning, the judges had awarded a total of 1148 medals. There were 480 bronzes, 515 silvers, 110 golds, and 42 double golds. In addition to the medals 177 wines won buckles designating them class champions or reserve champions in the open competition or class champion or reserve champion in either the Texas competition or the Spanish competition. Last year the designated country was Argentina, next year it will be some other yet-to-be-determined country (New Zealand? South Africa? Chile? Italy?).

"Wait a minute. Back up a bit." you might say. "Champion? Reserve Champion? Belt Buckles?" Allow me to explain. After all, this is the Houston LIVESTOCK SHOW and Rodeo International Wine Competition. The "Livestock Show" part of this makes it one of the world's largest agricultural fairs. In Ag fairs in Texas (and most of the west), people are used to earning buckles to designate exceptional achievement. It goes back to 4H and FFA. In each class, the panels look at the top few wines and select one wine as the best – the champion - and another as second best – the reserve champion. If there is only one double gold on the panel, that is automatically the champion. This year, one of the panels had six double gold medals in the (highest priced Cabernet Sauvignon) class they were judging so they had to reconsider all six wines and determine which two were the best of the best and then sort out which of those two is the champion and which is the reserve champion. It's tough work but someone's got to do it.

A lot of winemakers and vineyard managers grew up in Ag. They WANT one of those buckles. I've had phone calls about fights over who gets to wear the buckle and I know several winemakers who wear their buckle on a daily basis. Remember: Medals are great ... but they won't hold your pants up. And because of the RODEO part of our tradition, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo awards six saddles and five sets of chaps. The saddles are awarded to out grand-champion-best-of-show, reserve-grand-champion-best-of-show, Top Texas Wine, Top International Wine, Top All Around Winery, and Top Winery Outfit. The chaps are awarded to the top red wine, top white wine, top sparkling wine, top sweet wine, and top value wine winners. These wines are chosen from all of our class champions that got either five gold medal votes or four gold medal votes and one silver medal vote. A super panel (all the panel heads plus a selection of other judges to be not less than 15 or more than 25 members) tastes all of those wines and selects the wines to receive these top awards. My fellow marshal and I, along with some show officials, taste these wines at the same time as a sort of shadow panel. We also rate the wines but our votes are not counted. The super panel is tasting blind. Because we are back and forth dealing with the logistics of the competition, we have a least some knowledge of the wines in front of us.

Nevertheless, I was pleased to find that this year's Grand Champion Best of Show was also my number one pick as we tasted through the qualifying champions.



**MY THINKING is that the judges as a whole were a bit too generous with the bronze and silver medals and pretty stingy with the gold and double gold medals.** Some bronze and silver medals represent wines that the judges all agreed were at that level but some (a lot??) of the bronzes and silvers were awarded to wines that split the panel. Two gold and three bronze votes equals a bronze medal. Two gold, one silver, and two bronze votes equals a silver medal. All but eight of our judges are local. They are your neighbors and we all know how stubborn “those” people (as they are us) can be. Sometimes consensus is impossible so you get a split panel and a lesser award. That just makes the gold and double gold medal (and especially those saddle, chap, and champion and reserve champion buckle) winners that much better a recommendation. Think about it. These are wines Your-Friends-and-Neighbors - stubborn and contentious though they may be (this from a native Texan speaking about my own local Texan friends and neighbors) – have AGREED are the best of the best. They didn’t push just my buttons or his buttons or her buttons – they pushed the buttons of everyone on the panel. So it is highly likely they will push your buttons and those of your friends as well. Because the judging panels are dominated by locals drawn from the wine trade, sommeliers, wine writers, and advanced consumers with no more than one out-of-towner allowed on any one panel, the recommendation is a LOCAL recommendation and that is the best and most reliable kind. While it is highly likely you will find most of the silver and bronze winners quite enjoyable, it is a dead-lock-cinch you will really enjoy virtually ALL of the gold and double gold medal wines and even more so the buckle, chap, and saddle winners.

With no tasting notes from me, here are the wines your friends and neighbors chose as the best from among the 1789 entries. They are not priced for this article for two reasons. First, the wholesalers are still jockeying their pricing – mostly downward – to try and sell as much of the award winning wines as possible. Second, many of these wines are still in transit from or have not even yet left their point of origin. They’ll all get here but in some cases, it won’t be until the middle or even the end of January 2011.

### The Saddle Winners

#### Grand Champion Best of Show:

**Alexander Valley Vineyards “Cyrus”, Alexander Valley, 2006**  
History repeats itself. Lightning strikes twice. Cyrus wins Grand Champion Best of Show for the second time in 8 years. It was our first grand Champion. Poetic, huh?

#### Reserve Grand Champion Best of Show:

**Stanton Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon, Oakville, 2007**

Not often does a wine finish high in the rankings that is new to me but that is the case here. Since the competition, I have drunk a bottle and found it to be quite tasty.

#### Top Texas Wine:

**Becker Vineyards, Viognier, Texas, 2009**

The Becker’s have entered their wines every year and have earned lots of medals and buckles but this is their first saddle. I, for one, am delighted.

#### Top Spanish Wine:

**Acústic Cellar Blanc, Montsant, 2009**

Grenache Blanc. From Spain. I was not optimistic but this delicious focused, minerally, balanced white won me over. Before the competition, I’d have bet a paycheck that the top Spanish wine would be red – but I couldn’t find anyone to bet me.

### Top All-Around Winery:

**d’Arenberg of McLaren Vale in South Australia**

Yawn, Ho hum. d’Arenberg’s rough riding Chester Osborne earns Top All Around honors an unprecedented four years in a row. He may be getting used to it now but I know he is more excited than “yawn” and “ho-hum.” More like YEEEEEEE HAAWWWWW!

### Top Wine Company:

**E&J Gallo Winery**

I couldn’t be more pleased for Gallo and their reps as they have been big supporters of the competition since the very beginning. Like Becker, Gallo has earned lots of medals and buckles but this is their first saddle. I know they are JAZZED.

### The Chaps Winners

**Top Sparkling Wine: Heidsieck & Co. Monopole Blue Top Brut, Champagne, NV**

**Top White Wine: Vasse Felix Chardonnay, Margaret River, 2008**

**Top Red Wine: Vision Cellars Pinot Noir, Gary’s Vineyard, Santa Lucia Highlands, 2008**

**Top Sweet Wine: Dr. Konstantin Frank Vinifera Wine Cellars Riesling, Bunch Select Late Harvest, Finger Lakes (New York), 2008**

**Top Value Wine: Fat Monk Merlot, Central Coast, 2009**

## The “Associated Events”

### Rodeo Uncorked! Roundup and Best Bites Competition

The excitement gets uncorked at the Rodeo Uncorked! Roundup and Best Bites Competition, as attendees delight their taste buds at this lively event featuring the announcement of the International Wine Competition Champions, as well as the culinary competition of regional restaurants and catering institutions. Contest entries win top honors and ride away with trophy saddles, buckles and chaps.

Participating restaurants include: Brennan’s of Houston Brio, Compass Group, Crescent Moon Wine Bar, Danton’s Seafood, Hasta La Pasta, Merlion on 4th, Molina’s Cantina, Pappas Brothers Steakhouse, Ranson’s Steakhouse & Saloon, Russo’s Coal-Fired Italian Kitchen, Taste of Texas, The Barbed Rose Steakhouse & Seafood Co., and many more

**Sunday, Feb. 20, 2011 6:30 p.m. at Reliant Center – Halls D & E**

**Free valet parking available**

#### Tickets:

\$125 – Individual tickets purchased in advance

\$150 – Individual tickets purchased at the door

\$1,800 – Reserved seating at a table for 10

\$2,000 – Premium reserved seating at a table for 10

To purchase tickets or tables call 832.667.1128, e-mail wine@rodeohouston.com, or visit the Show’s Ticket Window on the second floor of Reliant Center

### Rodeo Uncorked! Champion Wine Auction and Dinner

A reception and the pairing of the champion wines with a special seated dinner began the exciting evening of bidding for the award-winning wines from the competition. The historically sold-out event starts with a reception, featuring the award-winning wines, and a silent auction followed by an elegant, seated dinner.

**Saturday, March 5, 2011 at Reliant Center in the 600 series rooms**

**5:30 p.m. – Reception and silent auction 8 p.m. – Live auction**

#### Tickets

\$300 – Individual tickets

Reserved seating at a table for 10 starts at \$3,000

To purchase tickets or tables call 832.667.1128 or e-mail wine@rodeohouston.com

### Champion Wine Garden

Taste your way through award-winning wines from the International Wine Competition. Located in Carruth Plaza, the Champion Wine Garden is a great place to relax, take in the scenery, learn from the educational wine seminars and enjoy some of the best wines from across the world. Live music is available in the Champion Wine Garden Thursdays through Sundays.

#### Schedule:

Monday – Friday 4 to 11 p.m.

Saturday 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Sunday noon to 10 p.m.

#### Drink Tickets

Drink tickets are available for purchase in the Champion Wine Garden. Drink tickets are \$1 a piece. Visitors can purchase as little as a taste and as much as a bottle or more.



**The Double Gold and Gold Medal Winners**

Becker Vineyards Viognier, Texas, 2009 (Double Gold, Class Champion, Texas Class Champion)  
 Acústic Cellar Blanc, Montsant, 2009 (Double Gold, Class Champion, Spanish Class Champion)  
 Bodegas Riojanas Monte Real Reserva, D.O. Rioja, 2004 (Double Gold, Class Champion, Spanish Class Champion)  
 Alexander Valley Vineyards Estate Cabernet Franc, Alexander Valley, 2007 (Double Gold, Class Champion)  
 Antica Napa Valley Chardonnay, Atlas Peak District, 2009 (Double Gold, Class Champion)  
 Biltmore Reserve Pinot Noir, Russian River Valley, 2008 (Double Gold, Class Champion)  
 Chateau De Montfort Demi-Sec, Vouvray, 2008 (Double Gold, Class Champion)  
 Consilience Wines Grenache Blanc, Santa Barbara County, 2007 (Double Gold, Class Champion)  
 d'Arenberg The Noble Mud Pie Viognier/Pinot Gris/Marsanne, Adelaide Hills, 2008 (Double Gold, Class Champion)  
 Dr. Konstantin Frank Vinifera Wine Cellars Dry Riesling, Finger Lakes, 2009 (Double Gold, Class Champion)  
 Dr. Konstantin Frank Vinifera Wine Cellars Riesling, Bunch Select Late Harvest, Finger Lakes, 2008 (Double Gold, Class Champion)  
 Dr. Loosen 'Blue Slate' Kabinett, Mosel, 2009 (Double Gold, Class Champion)  
 Fat Monk Merlot, Central Coast, 2009 (Double Gold, Class Champion)  
 Forefront By Pine Ridge Vineyards, Napa Valley, 2008 (Double Gold, Class Champion)  
 Haak Vineyards and Winery 2009 Gewurztraminer, American, 2009 (Double Gold, Class Champion)  
 Heidsieck & Co. Monopole Blue Top Brut, Reims, NV (Double Gold, Class Champion)  
 John Anthony Vineyards Jam Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, 2008 (Double Gold, Class Champion)  
 King Estate Winery Signature Pinot Gris, Oregon, 2009 (Double Gold, Class Champion)  
 Mettler Family Vineyards Petite Sirah, Lodi, 2005 (Double Gold, Class Champion)  
 Penfolds Grange, South Adelaide Hills, 2004 (Double Gold, Class Champion)  
 Reynolds Family Winery Persistence, Napa Valley, 2006 (Double Gold, Class Champion)  
 Stanton Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon, Oakville, 2007 (Double Gold, Class Champion)  
 Sutter Home Vineyards Zinfandel, California, 2009 (Double Gold, Class Champion)  
 Terra Robles Cabernet Sauvignon, Paso Robles, 2009 (Double Gold, Class Champion)  
 Twin Island Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, 2010 (Double Gold, Class Champion)  
 Vasse Felix Chardonnay, Margaret River, 2008 (Double Gold, Class Champion)  
 Vision Cellars Gary's Vineyard Pinot Noir, Santa Lucia Highlands, 2008 (Double Gold, Class Champion)  
 Vistalba Corte B, Mendoza, 2006 (Double Gold, Class Champion)  
 Benziger Chardonnay Sangiacomo Vineyard, Sonoma County, 2008 (Double Gold, Reserve Class Champion)  
 Charles Smith Wines Velvet Devil, Columbia Valley, 2009 (Double Gold, Reserve Class Champion)  
 d'Arenberg The Stump Jump Sauvignon Blanc, Adelaide Hills, 2009 (Double Gold, Reserve Class Champion)  
 Gauthier Select Vineyards Pinot Noir Rockin' H Ranch, Sonoma Coast, 2008 (Double Gold, Reserve Class Champion)

Hopler Trockenbeerenauslese, Austria, 2007 (Double Gold, Reserve Class Champion)  
 Macrostie Winery & Vineyards Pinot Noir Wildcat Mountain Vineyard, Sonoma Coast, 2008 (Double Gold, Reserve Class Champion)  
 Rodney Strong Vineyards Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, Alexander Valley, 2008 (Double Gold, Reserve Class Champion)  
 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars Artemis Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, 2007 (Double Gold, Reserve Class Champion)  
 Yering Station Yarrabank Cuvee, Yarra Valley, Victoria, 2004 (Double Gold, Reserve Class Champion)  
 Br Cohn Olive Hill Cabernet Sauvignon, Sonoma Valley, 2007 (Double Gold)  
 In Re Cabernet, Oak Knoll District, 2008 (Double Gold)  
 Lake Sonoma Chardonnay, Russian River Valley, 2008 (Double Gold)  
 Paradise Ridge Winery Pinot Noir, Russian River Valley, 2008 (Double Gold)  
 Roots Run Deep Winery Educated Guess, Napa Valley, 2008 (Double Gold)  
 Lightcatcher Winery Amour De Chocolat, Texas, NV (Gold, Class Champion, Texas Class Champion)  
 Llano Estacado Winery Cellar Select Port, Texas, NV (Gold, Class Champion, Texas Class Champion)  
 Llano Estacado Winery Viviano Red, Texas, 2007 (Gold, Class Champion, Texas Class Champion)  
 Bodegas Vinos Pinol L'Avi Arrufi, Terra Alta, 2008 (Gold, Class Champion, Spanish Class Champion)  
 Faustino V Reserva, Rioja, 2004 (Gold, Class Champion, Spanish Class Champion)  
 Perucchi Vermouth, Spain, NV (Gold, Class Champion, Spanish Class Champion)  
 Alexander Valley Vineyards Cyrus, Alexander Valley, 2006 (Gold, Class Champion)  
 Barefoot Cellars Moscato, California, NV (Gold, Class Champion)  
 Barefoot Cellars Shiraz, California, NV (Gold, Class Champion)  
 Castle Rock California Cuvee Pinot Noir, California, 2009 (Gold, Class Champion)  
 Columbia Crest V10 Two Vines Red Wine, Washington State, 2008 (Gold, Class Champion)  
 Cru Wine Company Carmichael "Sa Vini", Monterey, 2008 (Gold, Class Champion)  
 Damilano Arneis Langhe DOC, 2009 (Gold, Class Champion)  
 d'Arenberg d'Arry's Original Shiraz/Grenache, McLaren Vale, 2008 (Gold, Class Champion)  
 Davis Family Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, 2006 (Gold, Class Champion)  
 Firesteed Cellars Pinot Gris, Oregon, 2008 (Gold, Class Champion)  
 Flat Creek Estate Mistella, Texas, NV (Gold, Class Champion)  
 Fortress Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc 100% Musque Clone, Red Hills Lake County, 2009 (Gold, Class Champion)  
 Francis Coppola Winery Director's Cut Zinfandel, Dry Creek, 2008 (Gold, Class Champion)  
 Galante Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc, Carmel Valley, 2009 (Gold, Class Champion)  
 Mount Langi Ghiran Billi Billi Shiraz, Victoria, 2007 (Gold, Class Champion)  
 Oak Grove Vineyards Chardonnay, California, 2009 (Gold, Class Champion)  
 Peirano Estate Vineyards The Heritage Collection Tempranillo, Lodi, 2007 (Gold, Class Champion)  
 Scott Harvey Wines J&S Reserve Barbera, Amador County, 2008 (Gold, Class Champion)  
 Shardana Valli Di Porto Pino "Shardana" IGT, Sardinia, 2005 (Gold, Class Champion)  
 Terre Rouge Tete A Tete, Sierra Foothills, 2007 (Gold, Class Champion)  
 Tierra Secreta Malbec, Mendoza, 2008 (Gold, Class Champion)  
 Wild Horse Winery Merlot, Paso Robles, 2007 (Gold, Class Champion)  
 Yalumba FSW-8B, Wrattontully, 2009 (Gold, Class Champion)  
 Yalumba Tawny "Antique", Barossa, NV (Gold, Class Champion)

Caldwell Family Winery & Vineyards Eaglefire Muscat Blanc, Texas, 2010 (Gold, Reserve Class Champion, Texas Class Champion)  
 Bodegas Marques De Vargas Marques De Vargas Reserva, Rioja, 2004 (Gold, Reserve Class Champion, Spanish Class Reserve Champion)  
 Conde De Valdemar Inspiracion, Rioja, 2005 (Gold, Reserve Class Champion, Spanish Class Reserve Champion)  
 A To Z Wineworks Oregon Pinot Gris, Oregon, 2009 (Gold, Reserve Class Champion)  
 Alexander School Reserve Old Vine Grenache, Alexander Valley, 2007 (Gold, Reserve Class Champion)  
 Amizetta Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, 2006 (Gold, Reserve Class Champion)  
 Bonterra Vineyards Merlot, Mendocino County, 2008 (Gold, Reserve Class Champion)  
 Casa Montes Don Baltazar, San Juan, 2008 (Gold, Reserve Class Champion)  
 Chateau Ste Michelle Winery Harvest Select Riesling, Columbia Valley, 2009 (Gold, Reserve Class Champion)  
 Col Solare Shining Hill Red Blend, Columbia Valley, 2007 (Gold, Reserve Class Champion)  
 Cycles Gladiator Pinot Grigio, California, 2009 (Gold, Reserve Class Champion)  
 Davis Family Vineyards Syrah, Russian River Valley, 2007 (Gold, Reserve Class Champion)  
 Elyse Winery Barrel Select Petite Sirah, Napa Valley, 2007 (Gold, Reserve Class Champion)  
 Fetzer Vineyards Chardonnay, California, 2009 (Gold, Reserve Class Champion)  
 Gauthier Select Vineyards Riesling Hillside Vineyard, Santa Lucia Highlands, 2009 (Gold, Reserve Class Champion)  
 Hahn Winery GSM Red Wine Blend, Central Coast, 2009 (Gold, Reserve Class Champion)  
 Line Shack Rousanne, San Antonio Valley, 2009 (Gold, Reserve Class Champion)  
 Loredona Viognier, Monterey, 2009 (Gold, Reserve Class Champion)  
 Murrieta's Well White Meritage, Livermore Valley, 2007 (Gold, Reserve Class Champion)  
 N2 Wines White Blend, Sonoma County, 2009 (Gold, Reserve Class Champion)  
 Oak Ridge Ancient Vine Zinfandel, Lodi, 2007 (Gold, Reserve Class Champion)  
 Paradise Ridge Winery The Convict Zinfandel, Rockpile, 2007 (Gold, Reserve Class Champion)  
 Parker Coonawarra Estate Terra Rossa Cabernet, Coonawarra, 2005 (Gold, Reserve Class Champion)  
 Sequoia Groce Chardonnay, Napa Valley, 2008 (Gold, Reserve Class Champion)  
 Trapiche Single Vineyard Malbec Vina "Domingo F. Sarmiento", La Consulta, Mendoza, 2007 (Gold, Reserve Class Champion)  
 Xanadu Wines Next Of Kin Cabernet Sauvignon, Margaret River, 2008 (Gold, Reserve Class Champion)  
 Brennan Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon, Texas, 2008 (Gold, Texas Class Champion)  
 Fall Creek Meritus, Texas, 2005 (Gold, Texas Class Champion)  
 Messina Hof Merrill's Vineyard Riesling Angel, Texas, 2009 (Gold, Texas Class Champion)  
 Bodegas Covides Casteller Cava Brut, Spain, NV (Gold, Spanish Class Champion)  
 Gran Sarao Cava Brut, Spain, NV (Gold, Spanish Class Reserve Champion)

Adler Fels Winery Fineline Chardonnay, Monterey, 2009 (Gold)  
 Alamos Chardonnay, Mendoza, 2009 (Gold)  
 Barefoot Cellars Merlot, California, NV (Gold)  
 Beringer Cabernet Sauvignon Private Reserve, Napa Valley, 2005 (Gold)  
 Beronia Reserva, Rioja, 2005 (Gold)  
 Bodegas La Emperatriz S.L. Finca La Emperatriz Terruno, Doc Rioja, 2007 (Gold)  
 Bouchaine Vineyards Estate Vineyard, Pinot Meunier, Carneros/Napa Valley, 2008 (Gold)  
 Cambria Winery & Vineyards Katherine's Vineyard Chardonnay, Santa Maria Valley, 2007 (Gold)  
 Charles Ellner Brut Prestige, Champagne, 1999 (Gold)  
 Col Solare Colsolare Red Wine, Columbia Valley, 2007 (Gold)  
 Conde De Valdemar Crianza, Rioja, 2005 (Gold)  
 Conde De Valdemar Reserva, Rioja, 2003 (Gold)  
 Cornell - Sonoma Summit Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon, Sonoma County, 2007 (Gold)  
 Diamond Terrace Cabernet Sauvignon, Howell Mountain, 2006 (Gold)  
 Foley Pinot Noir, Santa Rita Hills, 2008 (Gold)  
 Francis Coppola Winery Diamond Collection Malbec, California, 2009 (Gold)  
 Francis Coppola Winery Diamond Collection Merlot, California, 2008 (Gold)  
 Francis Coppola Winery Director's Pinot Noir, Sonoma Coast, 2008 (Gold)  
 Hess Select Sauvignon Blanc, Lake County, 2009 (Gold)  
 Hollywood And Vine Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, 2007 (Gold)  
 Hopler Beerenauslese, Austria, NV (Gold)  
 Kilikanoon Killerman's Run Southern Rhone Red, South Australia, 2008 (Gold)  
 King Estate Domaine Pinot Gris, Oregon, 2008 (Gold)  
 King Estate Winery Next Riesling, Oregon, 2008 (Gold)  
 Korbel Brut Organic, California, NV (Gold)  
 Lander Jenkins Cabernet Sauvignon, California, 2008 (Gold)  
 Louis M. Martini Cabernet Sauvignon, Sonoma County, 2008 (Gold)  
 Middle Sister Forever Cool Merlot, California, NV (Gold)  
 Naughty Inky, Napa Valley, 2004 (Gold)  
 Omaka Springs Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, 2009 (Gold)  
 Penley Estate Gryphon Merlot, Coonawarra, 2008 (Gold)  
 Ponga Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, 2010 (Gold)  
 Ramon Bilbao Limited Edition, Rioja, 2006 (Gold)  
 Rodney Strong Vineyards Chalk Hill Estate Chardonnay, Chalk Hill, 2008 (Gold)  
 Russian Hill Estate Estate Vineyards Syrah, Russian River Valley, 2007 (Gold)  
 Rutherford Ranch Winery Chardonnay, Napa Valley, 2009 (Gold)  
 Schug Carneros Estate Winery Pinot Noir, Carneros, 2008 (Gold)  
 Scott Harvey Wines Mountain Selection Zinfandel, Amador County, 2007 (Gold)  
 Shoofly The Freckle, Adelaide Hills, 2008 (Gold)  
 Silkwood Petite Sirah, California, 2007 (Gold)  
 Singing Water Vineyards Merlot, Temecula, 2009 (Gold)  
 St. Francis Old Vines Zinfandel, Sonoma County, 2007 (Gold)  
 St. Supery Vineyards & Winery Sauvignon Blanc, Napa Valley, 2009 (Gold)  
 Terra D'Oro Winery Zinfandel, Amador County, 2007 (Gold)  
 The Nice Winery Malbec, Mendoza, 2007 (Gold)  
 The Nice Winery Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, Stags Leap District, 2007 (Gold)  
 Valduero Tempranillo Crianza, Ribera Del Duero, 2006 (Gold)  
 Vidal Icewine, Proprietor's Reserve, Niagara Peninsula VQA, 2007 (Gold)  
 Villa San Juliette Cabernet Sauvignon, Paso Robles, 2008 (Gold)



**For a complete list of ALL the medal winners, please go to**  
<http://www.rodeohouston.com/events/wine/downloads/2011HLSRMedalWinningWines.pdf> \*