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SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE
WINE COMPETITION

Fabulous showing by Gilroy and Santa Clara County Wineries

January 30, 2015 (Gilroy, CA): The 2012 Dos Niñas Therese Vineyards Malbec from Martin Ranch Winery, judged the Best in Class, led an exceptional showing by Santa Clara County wineries in the world's largest competition for American wines.

Martin Ranch, nestled in the bucolic western foothills of Gilroy, received 14 honors, including four Gold Medals. Two wineries – historic Kirigin Cellars and avant garde Sarah's Vineyard – each captured 9 awards. A Gold Medal for the 2012 Zinfandel highlighted Kirigin's large cache, while a Gold Medal for a 2011 Rhone-style blend, Cote de Madonne, topped the treasures for Sarah's Vineyard.

Fortino Winery, one of 22 wineries along the newly marked Santa Clara Valley Wine Trail, secured 8 awards. A highly regarded Italian blend, Charbono, and the estate bottled Cask 140 blend, highlighted Fortino's honors.

A whopping 89 medals filled the award casks from the region's 22 vintners. The awards underscored the region's rich variety. Iconic J. Lohr Winery earned a Best in Class for its 2011 Cuvee St. E Red Wine – a Bordeaux blend – while spirited Satori Cellars snared two Gold Medals – one for the 2012 Estate Harmonic Convergence Petite Sirah and another for the 2011 Estate Petite Sirah.

The Santa Clara Valley Wine Trail shepherds visitors along the routes traversing



the state's oldest ongoing wine producing region with more than 70 signs marking the way. Often visitors can chat with the friendly owners and the winemakers who are frequently on site. Spring Passport Weekend, scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, March 28 and 29, is the perfect time to plan a visit.

A complete list of the regions award-winning wines can be viewed at <http://winejudging.com>.

A few more highlights include:

- Five total awards, including two Gold Medals for Sycamore Creek Vineyards. Gold Medals were awarded for the 2012 Flagship Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon and the 2011 Cabernet.
- Four Silver Medals for Solis Winery, including honors for the 2011 Reserve Cara Mia.

• For places to stay and things to do in the Gilroy area as well as a downloadable map of the Santa Clara Valley Wine Trail, go to www.gilroywelcomecenter.org

• To learn more about the south Santa Clara Valley wineries, go to www.santaclarawines.com