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New Jersey Winemakers Invited to Compete at State Fair Wine Competition

Contest to be Held at State Fair Meadowlands – Bottle Submissions Start on June 24, Opening Night

East Rutherford, NJ – June 9, 2011 – The North Jersey Italian American Foundation (NJIAF) will hold its first annual State Fair Wine Competition at State Fair Meadowlands this year. The competition is open to both professional and amateur winemakers, and will run from June 24 through July 8, with an awards ceremony on July 10, the final day of the fair. The event is a fundraiser for The First Cerebral Palsy Center of New Jersey and the Belleville/Nutley Columbus Day Parade organization.

Winemakers interested in submitting wine for consideration will receive one free admission to the fair. The cost to enter is \$25 for the first bottle and \$10 for each additional bottle. Applicants should come to the State Fair Wine Competition booth inside the fairgrounds. The contest booth is open for submissions from June 24-July 8, during fair hours, from opening through 10 pm.

The winners will be announced on July 10th, the final day of the fair, at 6 pm. The awards ceremony will feature a lecture on wine making, and winners will receive medals. Awards will include bronze, silver and gold awards, with a “Best in Show” ribbon.

Categories that will be judged include: red, white and grappa. The professional wine judges include: John Gizzi, president of makewinewithus.com, and Diann Greco, vice president of makewinewithus.com. The third judge will be a surprise guest who is well known to New Jersey wine makers and certified by the American Wine Society.

“This wine competition is a great opportunity to salute all of New Jersey’s wine makers. We are delighted to be provide local wine makers a forum to share, compete and raise the profile of New Jersey as a state that makes, and appreciates, fine wine,” said George McManus, organizer of the State Fair Wine Competition.

The contest booth, which will be recognizable thanks to its calliope, will sell small wine-making items. Bottles will be stored overnight in an air-conditioned trailer.

Al Dorso, president of State Fair Meadowlands, will act as Deputy Grand Marshall in the Belleville/Nutley Columbus Day Parade on Oct. 9.

About State Fair Meadowlands

State Fair Meadowlands will celebrate its 25th anniversary this summer, running daily from June 24 thru July 10. The fair will be held in new, larger fairgrounds next to the New Meadowlands Stadium, formerly Giants Stadium. It features 150 rides and attractions and over 50 food vendors. In addition to live music, the fair will offer exciting new entertainment that is free with entry ticket—The Big Cat Show, Kachunga and The Alligator Show and Circus Maximus – as well as old favorites, including Racing Pigs, Magic Shows, Master Hypnotist Steve Bayner and World of Wonder – Palace of Illusion. Also back this year is the Batcopter, the Skyride and the fabulous Fourth of July fireworks. Visit www.njfair.com for info about tickets, special discounts, promotions and hours.

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