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**CHRISTIAN W. KLAY WINERY WINS SILVER MEDAL IN
2008 NATIONAL WOMEN'S WINE COMPETITION**
*All-Star Panel of Women Judges Singles Out Christian W. Klay Winery at
International Competition*

SANTA ROSA, CA – An all-star panel of 28 all-women judges determined that Christian W. Klay Winery's Summit Mist was worthy of a silver medal. Christian W. Klay Winery competed against nearly 1500 wines entered from over 300 wineries from 30 states and 10 foreign in the National Women's Wine Competition™, which concluded recently in Santa Rosa, Calif.

This is the first year the competition has accepted international entries, raising the difficulty of earning a medal.

“Winning a silver medal at the National Women's Wine Competition is such a great honor. As a woman who is a wine maker and winery owner, this award has a special meaning and significance to me,” said Sharon Klay, owner of the Christian W. Klay Winery.

“The Christian W. Klay Winery has earned the right to say that these exceptional vintages are Certified Women Love It!™ wines,” according to Lea Pierce, Director and founder of the National Women's Wine Competition. “These wines beat out many well-known brands that also competed, but simply did not earn medals in this competition,” Pierce added.

“The judges brought world-class palates to the task of judging over entries in over 200 different categories, and found that the Christian W. Klay Winery's Summit Mist is a winner,” she said. This year's judges included Honorary Co-Chair Gina Gallo of Gallo Family Wines, Mary Ewing Mulligan, the first woman Master of Wine in the United States and one of approximately 250 worldwide, plus leading wine buyers, writers, and TV personality and wine expert Leslie Sbrocco.

The National Women's Wine Competition was created to recognize the growing influence women have on the wine industry and to help provide a “woman-to-woman roadmap of the wine marketplace,” Pierce said. The majority of wine purchases in the U.S. are made by female consumers, and the ranks of female winemakers and other wine industry professionals are growing rapidly. Yet most wine competitions are judged predominantly by men. The National Women's Wine Competition is the first and only U.S. competition that puts the female palate front and center at the judging table.

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Competition Photos are available by request. Contact Lea Pierce at info@nwwc.info.

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