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Volcano Vineyards Wins Another Gold Medal

Bend, Oregon, 4 March 2008 – Volcano Vineyards, an Oregon micro-winery based in Bend, announced today that it was awarded a Gold Medal at the 2008 Grand Harvest Awards. The Gold Medal winning wine was their Volcano Vineyards 2005 Syrah from the Rogue Valley AVA in Southern Oregon. The Grand Harvest Awards are sponsored by Vineyard and Winery Management Magazine. The focus of the competition is on terroir – the influence of soil, weather conditions, and climate on the grapes. Wines are grouped not by varietal but by region or appellation. Volcano Vineyards was the only Gold Medal winner from the Rogue Valley AVA designation.

“The Grand Harvest Awards was our second major competition of 2008, and it gave us our third Gold Medal of the year, so we are off to a great start,” said Volcano Vineyards owner Liz Ratcliff. “We now have three vintages of Syrah that have won Gold.”

Volcano Vineyards 2005 Syrah is from Lakeside Vineyard in Jacksonville, Oregon, a site that sits at a slight elevation and benefits from a long growing season and even temperatures. The grapes are believed to be an Hermitage clone acquired from Joseph Phelps. The wine was aged for 16 months exclusively in oak barrels from a variety of French coopers, and is extremely food friendly, complementing salty or bitter foods, such as olive tapenade, or dishes with lemon or caper accents.

Volcano Vineyards is owned and operated by Scott and Liz Ratcliff who decided to go “pro” with their home winemaking shortly after moving to Bend from San Francisco in 2001. Their wine education started early, but as Liz explains, “While I wish we could say that we learned to walk in granddad’s vineyards or jammed Uncle Harry’s bottling line with a Barbie Doll, the fact is our initial exposure was on the consumer side. Scott’s folks started visiting Napa Valley in the late 60s. My dad was hit with the wine bug in the early 80s, falling in love with Chateauneuf du Pape.”

Scott and Liz met when they were both waiters in San Francisco, Scott at McCormick & Kuleto’s and Liz at The Sherman House. Scott credits their time in restaurants as vital to developing their palates. “As a waiter in a four or five star restaurant, the more you know about the food you are serving and the wine on your list that perfectly complements it, the better the experience your guests will have. We found we preferred wines that were food-friendly: well-balanced and true to the fruit, crafted in a more European style. And that is our winemaking philosophy for Volcano Vineyards.”

Volcano Vineyards wines are available at selected retailers and at the Volcano Vineyards Tasting Lounge located at 930 NW Brooks Street by The Pine Tavern in downtown Bend, Oregon. The Tasting Lounge also feature the wines other Pacific Northwest artisan producers by the taste, flight, glass as well as bottle and case sales. The Volcano Vineyards Tasting Lounge is open Wednesday through Saturday and is available for special events. Please call 541.617.1102 or see their website www.VolcanoVineyards.com for more information.