



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Francis Ford Coppola Winery Awarded
2011 *USA Wine Producer of the Year*
by International Wine & Spirit Competition**

GEYSERVILLE, Calif. (November 16, 2011) – Francis Ford Coppola Presents, the parent company of Francis Ford Coppola Winery (www.FrancisCoppolaWinery.com), was honored with the prestigious *USA Wine Producer of the Year* award. It was announced today during the International Wine & Spirit Competition (IWSC) Awards Presentation and Banquet held in London’s legendary Guildhall.

“We’re very excited to be awarded this year’s *USA Wine Producer of the Year* trophy,” said Emily Putman, export sales director for Francis Ford Coppola Presents, who was in London to receive the award. Adding, “Our wines garnered a great deal of positive attention during this year’s competition and we’re thankful to be recognized globally by the IWSC for our achievements in winemaking -- achievements made possible by the creative vision of our owner Francis Coppola and the hard work and dedication of our entire winemaking team in Sonoma County.”

The *USA Wine Producer of the Year* award is based primarily on medals granted by the judging panel to wines entered into the IWSC tasting competition in April. The number of medals is then tallied and further calculations are made to determine the short list of nominees from which a winner is chosen. Although Francis Ford Coppola Winery produces more than [forty wines and nine labels](#), Director of Winemaking and General Manager Corey Beck and his winemaking team hand-selected a collection of six premium wines for consideration in this year’s competition.

Three wines from Francis Ford Coppola Winery’s *Diamond Collection*, a premium wine portfolio of classic California expressions that offer fruit-forward, multi-dimensional flavor and immediate approachability, were chosen for the competition, as well as three wines from the *Director’s Cut* brand, a montage of Sonoma County distinct sub-appellation wines. Among the awards received, the 2008 Director’s Cut Cabernet Sauvignon received a distinguished “Gold, Best in Class” award. Three “Silver, Best in Class” honors were given to the 2010 Diamond Collection Claret, the 2010 Diamond Collection Sauvignon Blanc and the 2009 Director’s Cut Chardonnay.

Additionally, the Francis Ford Coppola Winery portfolio of wines includes *Rosso & Bianco*, *Sofia*, *Director’s*, *Votre Santé*, *Su Yuen*, *Archimedes* and *Francis Coppola Reserve Wines*, all benefiting from Beck’s attentive and artistic winemaking leadership.

Beck has been an integral part of Francis Ford Coppola Winery for more than 14 years. A veteran California winemaker, he considers his fellow nominees from Benziger Family Winery, Delicato

Family Vineyards, Domaine Carneros, Hess Collection and Château Ste Michelle among his colleagues and friends, saying, “It’s an honor to be included with such a high caliber of admired and respected wineries.”

For more information, please visit www.FrancisCoppolaWinery.com or the winery’s Facebook page, www.facebook.com/CoppolaWine.

About Francis Ford Coppola Winery

Francis puts it best, saying the winery is “a wine wonderland, a park of pleasure where people of all ages can enjoy all the best things in life – food, wine, music, dancing, games, swimming and performances of all types. A place to celebrate the love of life.” Francis Ford Coppola Winery is located at 300 Via Archimedes in Geyserville, California, accessed from US HWY 101 and the INDEPENDENCE LANE exit. Among the many unique attractions at the property, Francis Ford Coppola Winery features wine tasting, two restaurants, a swimming pool, a movie gallery, a performing arts Pavilion, and a park area with game tables and bocce courts. Francis Ford Coppola Winery opens at 11 a.m. daily. For more information, call (707) 857-1400, toll free (877) 590-3329 or visit www.FrancisCoppolaWinery.com.

About Francis Ford Coppola Presents

In our company, ‘fun and adventure’ means finding art in living; curiosity, innovation and the exploration of new horizons, while resisting the forces of narrow thinking. We hope you find this reflected in the wine we make and the food we prepare - key ingredients for experiencing life with family and friends. This thinking also guides our magazine, *Zoetrope: All-Story*, which is dedicated to sharing the work of the best writers in the world and our Central American resorts, *Blancaneaux*, *La Lancha* and *Turtle Inn*, designed to rejuvenate and inspire. Also close to home is *Mammarella’s*, our cafe in Napa and *Cafe Zoetrope*, our San Francisco eatery serving authentic Italian food in the heart of the North Beach.

About International Wine & Spirits Competition

The International Wine and Spirit Competition was founded in 1969 and is the premier competition of its kind in the world. Its aim is to promote the quality and excellence of the world's best wines, spirits and liqueurs. All entries of wines, spirits and liqueurs are blind tasted in groups divided by variety, region and vintage as necessary. Awards are made on a points system and sponsored trophies are presented in selected categories.

Technical analysis is carried out on all Gold, Gold (Best in Class), Silver (Best in Class) award winning wines, spirits and liqueurs to ensure that all products are technically sound and will be of the same high quality when they reach the consumer as they were when the judging panels originally tasted them.

The IWSC is supported by a group of Vice Presidents made up of some of the most influential men and women in the trade, including Baroness Philippine de Rothschild, Miguel Torres, Marchese Piero Antinori, Robert Drouhin, Paul Symington, May de Lencquesaing, Gina Gallo, Rafael Guilisasti and this year’s IWSC President, Prince Michael zu Salm-Salm, of the distinguished and most venerated Salm-Dalberg family.

###

Media Contact: Marlow Daniel, Francis Ford Coppola Winery, Marlow.Daniel@ffcpresents.com, (707) 251-3227

