



TAHOE RIDGE WINERY, MINDEN, NEVADA

**WINS GOLD, SILVER & BRONZE
AT THE
2009 INTERNATIONAL COLD CLIMATE WINE COMPETITION
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA**

September 11, 2009 - Minden, Nevada:

Rick Halbardier, CEO and Director of Winemaking for Tahoe Ridge Winery, Minden, Nevada announces the winning of Gold, Silver and Bronze medals for Nevada grown and produced wines in the 2009 International Cold Climate Wine Competition held in Minneapolis, Minnesota (August 25th – 27th, 2009). The winning wines will be sold exclusively through the Tahoe Ridge Pioneer Wine Club and its new Marketplace and Bistro opening this fall in Minden, Nevada.

Winning wines include: GOLD MEDAL - 2008 St. Croix, Buffalo Creek Vineyard, Gardnerville, Nevada
SILVER MEDAL - 2008 Frontenac, Buffalo Creek Vineyard, Gardnerville, Nevada
BRONZE MEDAL – 2008 La Crosse, Buffalo Creek Vineyard, Gardnerville, Nevada

Our 2009 commercial wine competition medal count stands at 19 medals through August. Tahoe Ridge Winery who pioneered the development of the Nevada Wine and Grape Growing Industry in 1990 is Nevada's largest and longest continually owned and operated wine and grape growing operation. This year will mark Tahoe Ridges 17th harvest of grapes from Nevada vineyards and 20 years in the development of the *Nevada Wine and Grape Growing Industry*.

Rick Halbardier (States)

"I believe that after 20 years of continuous work and the investment of over two million dollars into the research associated with the development of a wine and grape growing industry in northern Nevada we have finally established the grape varietals that will take Nevada to the next level"

Interspecific wine grapes are developed by researchers at Cornell University and the University of Minnesota. Tahoe Ridge began work with interspecific wine grapes back in 1999 and now has over 15,000 of these vines planted in the Carson, Smith, Washoe and Mason Valley areas of northern Nevada.

Tahoe Ridge Winery harvested the first commercial interspecific wine grapes from the Buffalo Creek Vineyard located in Gardnerville, Nevada in 2008. Buffalo Creek Vineyard is owned and operated by David and Susan Semas. The vineyard was planted in 2006 and is approximately 8 acres in size. The vineyard is planted to two red interspecific wine grape varieties (St. Croix and Frontenac) and two white interspecific wine grape varieties (La Crosse and Brianna).

Tahoe Ridge is the largest grower and producer of wine in the State of Nevada producing 150,000 bottles plus of wine annually from both its Nevada and California vineyards.

All media members are welcomed and encouraged to cover all aspects of the 2009 grape harvest & winemaking operations at Tahoe Ridge Winery. Please contact Rick Halbardier to schedule your personal tour of our vineyards, winemaking and hospitality operations in Nevada.

Tahoe Ridge Winery along with the Nevada Wine and Grape Growers Association (NWGGA) is building one of the most economically diversified Agra-tourism businesses in Nevada. We welcome your participation in this exciting adventure.

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