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**New Kent Winery Reserve Chardonnay Awarded  
2011 Virginia Governor's Cup White**

**Richmond, Va.** (Oct.5, 2011) - New Kent Winery's 2009 Reserve Chardonnay has been awarded the 2011 Virginia Governor's Cup for White Wines. Fermentation on the yeast lees in small premium American oak barrels makes this well rounded creamy Virginia Reserve Chardonnay unique among other wines. Extremely youthful despite its vintage, New Kent Winery's 2009 Reserve Chardonnay pairs beautifully with flavorful cheeses and all types of shellfish, veal, pork, poultry, seafood and cream sauce pasta dishes.

"I am honored to accept this award and do so with great pride. I acknowledge the others who made this possible: my partners in this winery, Boddie-Noell Enterprises, deserve much credit. I also want to thank the wonderful New Kent Winery staff - their dedication and hard work have contributed greatly to our success. Finally, I want to thank our wonderful winemaker, Tom Payette. Tom's expertise and magical touch has helped New Kent Winery establish itself as one of Virginia's premier wineries," said New Kent Winery owner Pete Johns.

Owning a winery has been a life-long dream of Johns, whose winery is part of a large Master Planned Community, the New Kent Vineyards. Made of recycled historic materials, including pre-Civil War oversized handmade brick and cypress logs that were under water for more than 150 years, reclaimed heart pine columns and beams, the 17,000 sq. ft. winery is one of the "greenest buildings" in the Mid Atlantic Region.

"What a huge honor to be recognized for our 2009 Chardonnay Reserve. It is a privilege to work with such fine people at New Kent Winery and I am blessed to be able to do what I love to do - making wine. It has been a huge rewarding year for me and I am thrilled. Please swirl, sip and savor this beautiful Chardonnay," said winemaker Tom Payette.

The 2011 Virginia Governor's Cup Competition for white wines is sponsored by the Virginia Wineries Association (VWA). The competition took place Aug. 27 at Lansdowne Resort. Of the 162 wines entered from 52 wineries, representing all of the appellations in the Commonwealth, there were seven Gold medalists, 42 Silver medalists and 54 Bronze medalists. The Virginia red wines were judged earlier this year and announced in at the Virginia Wine Expo in February.

The Governor's Cup was selected from the seven Gold medalists: New Kent Winery Reserve Chardonnay 2009, Bluestone Vineyard BLUE ICE 2010, Prince Michel Vineyard Mt. Juliet Petite Manseng 2008, Willowcroft Farm Vineyards Claire 2010, Barren Ridge Vineyards Harmony 2009, James River Cellars Semi-Dry 2010, and North Gate Vineyard 2010 Viognier.

A panel of 26 judges from five states judged the wines, which represent all of the appellations in the Commonwealth. The Governor's Cup White was awarded at the launch of October Virginia Wine Month, Oct. 5 at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. A private media tasting of the Gold medalists was held immediately preceding the Governor's Cup award at the Grand Virginia Wine reception.

There were several noted journalists and other wine aficionados among the judging staff including Jeff Siegel (Dallas Morning News), Tony Lawrence (Wine Chef Philadelphia), Deborah Parker Wong, (Northern California editor for The Tasting Panel) along with retailers from Virginia and Maryland.

The rapid growth of Virginia's vibrant wine industry has made it one of the fastest growing agricultural sectors in the state. In 1979, there were only six wineries in Virginia. Today, there are over 190 wineries, with growth escalating as fast as the state's advancements in wine quality and reputation. For a complete list of winners and further information about events, tours and tastings, please visit the Virginia Wine Marketing Office's website at <http://www.virginiawine.org/> or call 1-804-344-8200.

The Virginia Winery Association's (VWA) mission is to actively encourage and support the production, quality, promotion, and appreciation of Virginia Wines. The VWA, representing all Virginia's farm wineries, is the go-to-resource and focal point within the wine industry for local, state and national issues that affect its members.

The Virginia Governor's Cup Wine Competition has been held in Virginia since 1982. Sponsored by the VWA, the competition is open to Virginia appellation wines and ciders that use 95% or greater fruit grown in Virginia.

New Kent Winery is located in the heart of New Kent Vineyards, a multifaceted mixed-use planned community. In keeping with the rural setting of the county, the community will be surrounded by vineyards, which serve as a buffer from the parkway that travels through the community. For more information visit [www.newkentwinery.com/](http://www.newkentwinery.com/).

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