



**GOVERNOR'S CUP AWARDS  
MARCH 2017**



*Photo Credit: Jay Paul*

**2017 GOVERNOR'S CUP  
GOES TO THE BARNS AT HAMILTON STATION VINEYARDS**

Governor Terry McAuliffe presented the 2017 Virginia Wineries Association Governor's Cup to The Barns at Hamilton Station Vineyards for their 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon. The awards ceremony was held on February 21 at the John Marshall Hotel in Richmond.

The winning Cabernet Sauvignon is a full-bodied wine with well-balanced acidity. It is aged in French and American oak and expresses notes of dark cherry and coffee. It is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon and is complemented by a soft tannic structure that is integrated with the fruit. Clove and tobacco notes add complexity and extend through the finish.

The Barns at Hamilton Station Vineyards owner Andrew Fialdini said, "This experience has surpassed all our expectations. The 2014 vintage was a special one and we knew we wanted to develop a wine that was 100% Cabernet Sauvignon with the fruit from this vintage." Winemaker Michael Shaps said, "Our team is especially proud of this wine. It

is a classic Virginia Cabernet Sauvignon, perfectly balanced, and has mature tannins that are ripe but not overly extracted; and it has nice acidity. The fruit comes from mostly Carter's Mountain with some additional fruit from Mount Juliet vineyards. Carter's Mountain has southwest exposure, constant breezes, great drainage and a slightly cooler climate to retain nature acidity."

The Governor's Cup award winner was selected from the 2017 Governor's Cup Case, a selection of the top 12 scoring wines chosen from 494 entries of both red and white wines, from 102 wineries. Any wine made from 100% Virginia fruit was eligible for the competition. Now in its 35th year, the competition was revamped in 2012 to become one of the most stringent and thorough wine competitions in the country. In addition to the winner, 11 other wines are included in the Governor's Cup Case. The official 2017 case includes:

- Barboursville Vineyards 2013 Paxxito
- Breaux Vineyards 2012 Meritage
- Horton Vineyards 2015 Viognier
- Ingleside Vineyards, 2014 Petit Verdot
- Jefferson Vineyards, 2014 Petit Verdot
- King Family Vineyards, 2014 Loreley
- King Family Vineyards, 2014 Petit Verdot
- Michael Shaps Wineworks, 2014 Meritage
- Valley Road Vineyards, 2014 Petit Verdot
- Veritas Vineyard and Winery, 2014 Petit Manseng
- Veritas Vineyard and Winery, 2014 Petit Verdot Paul Shaffer 6<sup>th</sup> Edition

Both the Governor's Cup Competition and the resulting Governor's Cup Case boost the visibility of the state's highest-scoring wines through various programs and exposure to top industry critics and tastemakers. The wines will be used by the Virginia Wine Board Marketing Office for marketing purposes in Virginia, across the country, and around the world. For additional information, contact [Annette.Boyd@VirginiaWine.org](mailto:Annette.Boyd@VirginiaWine.org).