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BIG FRESNO FAIR ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 6TH ANNUAL SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY OLIVE OIL COMPETITION

An incredible 55 entries were received for the return of this popular competition, despite a challenging harvest season

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA, June 18, 2021…After an extensive judging of submitted California-produced olive oils, The Big Fresno Fair is excited to reveal the winners of the popular San Joaquin Valley Olive Oil Competition (SJVOOC), which returned after being canceled in 2020 amid the statewide shelter-in-place order due to COVID-19 and made judging impossible. The SJVOOC, which is open to all olive oil producers in California with products made from their 2020 olive harvest, received a total of 55 entries from 17 different olive oil producers from throughout the State.

Entries were received in two categories, Extra Virgin Olive Oil (EVOO) and Flavored Olive Oil, with 10 classes in total. Gold and Silver Medals were awarded, as well as an overall "Best of Show" and "Best of the Valley" selected from all of the highest scoring gold medal entries in both categories. In total there were 42 EVOO and 13 Flavored Olive Oil entries that were entered for judging. The winners of the 6th Annual San Joaquin Valley Olive Oil Competition are:

Best of Show
The Olive Press *Sevillano* (Sonoma and Yolo County)

Best of Show Flavored
Calivirgin *Serrano* (San Joaquin County)

Best of the Valley
Olivaia's OLA *Block X Heirloom* (Tulare County)

Extra Virgin Olive Oils

- **Gold Medal Winners**
  - **Spanish Blends**: Barton Olive Oil Co. EVOO (San Luis Obispo County)
  - **Spanish Singles**: Olive Crush Farms *Arbequina* (Calaveras County), Rosenthal Ranches *Arbosana* (Madera County), California Olive Ranch *Arbosana* (Glenn County), The Olive Press *Sevillano* (Sonoma and Yolo County), The Olive Press *Picual* (Sonoma and Yolo County), The Olive Press *Arbosana* (Sonoma and Yolo County), Organic Roots *Arbequina* (Glenn County), Calivirgin Premium EVOO (San Joaquin County), Mountain Springs Olive Ranch *Arbequina* (San Luis Obispo County), Corto Olive Co. Truly *Arbosana* (San Joaquin County)
  - **Italian Blends:** Tres Osos *Robust* (Monterey County), San Miguel Olive Farm *Tuscan Gold Eleganza Elite* (San Luis Obispo)
  - **Italian Singles:** Tres Osos *Taggiasca* (Monterey County)
  - **Other Blends:** Rancho Azul y Oro *Estate* (Monterey County), Olivaia's OLA Block X Heirloom (Tulare County)

- **Other Singles:** Mangini Ranch *Mission* (Calaveras County), Mountain Springs Olive Ranch *Koroneiki* (San Luis Obispo County)

- **Silver Medal Winners:**
  - **Spanish Blends:** Olivaia's OLA *Block X Blend* (Tulare County)
  - **Spanish Singles:** Cobram Estate 100% California Classic (Yolo County), Cobram Estate *Mild* (Yolo County), Rancho Azul y Oro *Arbequina* (Monterey County), The Olive Press *Arbequina* (Sonoma and Yolo County), ENZO Organic EVOO – *Delicate* (Madera County), Corto Olive Co. *Truly Arbequina* (San Joaquin County)
  - **Italian Blends:** San Miguel Olive Farm *Tuscan Gold Paradiso* (San Luis Obispo County), Marchini Farms *Joe's Premium Tuscan Blend* (Merced County)
  - **Other Blends:** Mangini Ranch – *Calaveras Reserve* (Calaveras County)
  - **Other Singles:** Organic Roots *Koroneiki* (Glenn County)

Flavored Olive Oils

- **Gold Medal Winners**
  - **Pepper:** Calivirgin *Serrano* (San Joaquin County), Calivirgin *Habanero* (San Joaquin County)
  - **Citrus:** Enzo *Organic Eureka Lemon Crush* (Madera County), ENZO *Organic Clementine Crush* (Madera County)
  - **Herbal:** Calivirgin *Bountiful Basil* (San Joaquin County),
- **Silver Medal Winners**
  - **Pepper:** Calivirgin *Hot Virgin Jalapeno* (San Joaquin County), ENZO *Organic Fresno Chili Crush* (Madera County)
  - **Citrus:** Calivirgin *Lusty Lemon* (San Joaquin County)
  - **Herbal:** Calivirgin *Rustic Rosemary* (San Joaquin County)

"Despite a challenging 2020 harvest due to worker shortages caused by COVID-19 restrictions and an extremely hot and dry year in California, we could not be more pleased with the showing of these amazing olive oil producers," said Stacy Rianda, Deputy Manager II at The Big Fresno Fair. "It's such an exciting feeling to bring back the San Joaquin Valley Olive Oil Competition that recognizes and rewards some of the best olive oil producers throughout California."

Gold Medal and Best of Show winners will have the opportunity to have a booth in the Wells Fargo Agriculture Building on one day during a weekend at the 2021 Big Fresno Fair or have a booth at the Fair's Beer and Wine Festival on Saturday, October 9. At either location, they will have the opportunity to display and sell their award-winning product. Additionally, educational information will be set up so that Fairgoers can learn more about the art of making olive oil, its health benefits, recipes and more.

Participants in the 2021 SJVOOC were evaluated and scored on the following criteria:

- Gold Medal: Awarded to an oil that demonstrates its type and/or varietal character, balance, structure and complexities to the highest standards. Gold Medals will be awarded to those oils receiving scores between 86 – 100 points.
- Silver Medal: Awarded to an oil reflecting the correct distribution of balance and character of its type or variety; an oil deemed to be well crafted and of excellent quality. Silver Medals will be awarded to those oils receiving scores between 76- 85.99 points.
- Best of Show: Awarded to an oil recognized to possess special characteristics of the highest quality overall. All Gold medal winners will be eligible to compete for Best of Show in their division.

- Best of the Valley: Awarded to the oil that scored the highest with the ranch or office located in the San Joaquin Valley. Medals will be awarded for both EVOO and flavored oils. (Kern, Tulare, Kings, Fresno, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties eligible).

Details about the 2022 SJVOOC and its entry application will be posted in February 2022.

About The Big Fresno Fair:
The Big Fresno Fair, founded in 1884, is the fourth largest fair in the state of California and represents the 21st District Agricultural Association. More than 600,000 people from throughout the State visit The Big Fresno Fair each year making it the largest event in the Central Valley. Members of the Board of Directors include: Jerry Pacheco, President; Charles Riojas, Vice President; Terry Gonsalves, Secretary/Treasurer; Linda Mae Balakian Hunsucker; Gary Chahil; Frank Flores; Annalisa Perea; Larry Serpa; and Lawrence Salinas. Deputy Managers, Stacy Rianda and Lauri King oversee the daily operations of the Fair. After a modified, drive-thru event in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions, the 2021 Big Fresno Fair will return for 12 days of fun and entertainment, October 6 – 17. Fair Management continues to collaborate with the Fresno County Department of Public Health on permitted operations. As more details are known, the Fair will update its website. For more information about The Big Fresno Fair, please visit www.FresnoFair.com.