

Sullivan Birney Winery & Vineyards has Olympic Year with top wine competitions
2002 Sonoma Coast Chardonnay ties for “Best of California” at California State Fair-Candidate for Best of Show July 15th

Glen Ellen, CA *July 12, 2004* – As the world prepares for the summer Olympics in Athens, Greece, Sullivan Birney Winery & Vineyards is capturing its fair share of top gold and silver medals for the year. This boutique wine producer from the Sonoma Mountain and Sonoma Coast AVAs commemorates the second release of wines with a slew of accolades from several of the leading wine competitions in the United States. Not bad for a limited production winery that has been “under the radar” in Glen Ellen, where it has its warm and welcoming tasting room.

Recent highlighted awards include:

2004 California State Fair – The “Granddaddy” of Western Wine Competitions, first held in 1855 and considered the oldest wine competition dedicated to *vitis vinifera* grapes and focusing on California wines.

- Double Gold and 98 points for the *2002 Sonoma Coast Chardonnay* as well as a tie for “Best Chardonnay of California” and “Best of Class” for the Sonoma appellation with Benziger who won for its 2002 Carneros Chardonnay. *These two Glen Ellen based wineries are proving that there’s gold in those Sonoma hills!*
- A silver medal for the *2002 Sonoma Mountain Chardonnay*.

2004 Los Angeles County Fair Wine Competition – The oldest county fair wine competition dating from 1935. It is among the largest international wine competitions in the world.

- Gold for *the 2002 Sonoma Coast Chardonnay*.
- In 2003, the LACF awarded the *2001 Sonoma Mountain Pinot Noir Katherine’s Vineyard* a gold medal and “Best in Class” award.

2004 Orange County Fair Wine Competition – Considered the largest wine competition focusing solely on California appellated wines, this year comprised 3,184 wines.

- Four star gold medal and Best of Show in the Premium category of white varietals for the *2002 Sonoma Mountain Chardonnay*.

Other accolades of late have included the 2002 Sonoma Mountain Chardonnay being chosen by the **San Francisco Chronicle** as one of the top 11 Chardonnays in Sonoma County as well as a rating of “*Excellent and a panel favorite.*”

A relative newcomer to the wine scene, Sullivan Birney Winery & Vineyards was established in 1998 by Rick Sullivan and Jonelle Birney Sullivan who work with winemaker Rolando Herrera to craft artisan Pinot Noir and Chardonnay from 11 planted acres at their home ranch on Sonoma Mountain, and from the 50 acres they own in the Sonoma Coast appellation. The 2002 vintage represented their second release of wines for Sullivan Birney. The 2002 Sonoma Chardonnays have been given an overall score of 99 points by the *Wine Spectator* in the July 31st issue. Sonoma as a region has always received high acclaim for the higher than average number of medals it receives at competitions around the country, as well as for the diversity of its appellations and wines.

For more information on the winery and its wines, please visit www.sullivanbirneywinery.com. For press inquiries please contact Kimberly Charles of Charles Communications Associates at 415/701-9463 or kcharles@charlescomm.com.

#