



For Immediate Release
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**Announcing the Winners of the 2009
Old Ebbitt Grill International Wines for Oysters Competition**

Judges for the 2009 event deemed oysters are best with a Sauvignon Blanc from New Zealand in the Fifteenth-Annual Old Ebbitt Grill International Wines for Oysters Competition. Washingtonians are invited to perform their own taste test on November 20th & 21st.

Washington, DC (November 11, 2009) -- Old Ebbitt Grill's fifteenth-annual **Oyster Riot** will take place November 20th and 21st from 6:30 to 9:30 PM at 675 15th Street, NW, Washington, D.C., phone: 202-347-4800. Tickets are \$126.50 per person (all inclusive and sold out) affording participants unlimited oysters, wines, and beer from Magic Hat — #9 and Howl. Almost 1000 guests are anticipated each night as the event is an oyster-lover's fantasy with over 50,000 shucked oysters, representing 22 varieties from both coasts including Thatch Island, Barnstable Harbor, MA; Matunuk, Potters Pond, RI; Gold Creek, Hood Canal, WA; and Olympia, Totten Inlet, WA.

An impressive list of 253 wines from around the world were entered in this year's competition by winemakers and importers. Within the United States, 114 wines were submitted from six states. Wineries from 10 other countries entered a total of 139 wines including Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, New Zealand, South Africa, and Spain were sampled to determine the medal winners.

This year, seven of the top ten winning wines hail from New Zealand, with California, France, and Spain each having one gold medal winner. The Sauvignon Blanc grape dominated the competition, accounting for eight of the top ten wines. The 15 judges who gathered on November 9th included people from the fields of wine, food, television, sports, law, medicine and journalism. They each blind-tasted twenty finalists and scored each on their affinity for raw Olympia oysters. Their gold medal winner was the **Spy Valley Sauvignon Blanc 2008, Marlborough, New Zealand**, with first runner-up, **The Crossings Sauvignon Blanc 2008 Marlborough, New Zealand**, and second runner-up, **Fantail Sauvignon Blanc 2008 Marlborough, New Zealand** also receiving generous scores.



OLD EBBITT GRILL

All 10 gold medal wines will be poured at the *Oyster Riot*, and will be featured by the glass and bottle, throughout the coming year, at the Old Ebbitt Grill, and at the oyster bars at Clyde's of Gallery Place, Clyde's at Mark Center and Tower Oaks Lodge. Furthermore, all the wines entered for the 2009 competition that were not among the gold medal winners, are also available to sample both evenings, so guests can judge for themselves their ideal oyster and wine pairing.

Our Distinguished Panel of Judges

José Andrés, Michael Apstein, Bruce Boudreau, Andrew Dornenburg, Bart Farrell, Michael Franz, David Hagedorn, Tom Meyer, Andy Myers, Kaz Okochi, Karen Page, Chip Reid, Phyllis Richman, Richard Wolffe, Thomas Yannucci

2009 GOLD MEDAL WINNERS

Grand Champion

*Spy Valley Sauvignon Blanc 2008
Marlborough, New Zealand*

First Runner-Up

*The Crossings Sauvignon Blanc 2008
Marlborough, New Zealand*

Second Runner-Up

*Fantail Sauvignon Blanc 2008
Marlborough, New Zealand*

OTHER GOLD MEDALISTS

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| Bodegas Vinedos de Nieva Blanco Nieva, Rueda, Spain 2008 |
| Fire Road Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand 2009 |
| Kim Crawford Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand 2009 |
| Korbel Natural', Russian River Valley, California NV |
| Ladoucette Les Deux Tours Sauvignon Blanc, Touraine, France 2007 |
| Mount Nelson Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand 2008 |
| Sileni Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand 2009 |

2009 SILVER MEDAL WINNERS

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| Boston Bay "The Great White" Sauvignon Blanc, Australia 2009 |
| Brancott "Reserve" Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand 2008 |
| Cape Mentelle Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon, Margaret River, Australia 2008 |



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| Cloudy Bay Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand 2008 |
| Cono Sur Sauvignon Blanc, Central Valley, Chile 2009 |
| Dancing Bull Sauvignon Blanc, California 2008 |
| Nobilo "Regional Collection" Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand 2009 |
| Rancho Zabaco Sauvignon Blanc, Russian River Valley California 2008 |
| Santa Carolina Reserva Sauvignon Blanc, Leyda Valley, Chile 2009 |
| Santa Rita "120" Sauvignon Blanc, Central Valley, Chile 2009 |

2009 BRONZE MEDAL WINNERS

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| Alma Rosa Pinot Gris, Santa Rita Hills, California 2007 |
| Barefoot Cellars Pinot Grigio, California NV |
| Bird Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand 2008 |
| Brancott "B" Series Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand 2008 |
| Brancott Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand 2008 |
| Chateau Beau Mayne Blanc, Bordeaux Superieur, France 2007 |
| Cono Sur "Vision" Sauvignon Blanc, Casablanca Valley, Chile 2008 |
| Cupcake Vineyard Riesling, Marlborough, New Zealand 2009 |
| Cupcake Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand 2008 |
| Cypress Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc, Central Coast, California 2008 |
| Delta Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand 2008 |
| Dominican Oaks Chardonnay, California 2008 |
| Firestone Sauvignon Blanc, Santa Ynez, California 2008 |
| Glen Manor Sauvignon Blanc, Virginia 2008 |
| Huia Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand 2008 |
| Hunter's Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand 2008 |
| Intaglio Bianco Muller-Thurgau/Chardonnay/Riesling, Trentino, Italy 2008 |
| Jackson Estate "Grey Ghost" Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand 2007 |
| Jackson Estate "Stich" Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand 2008 |
| Lawson's Dry Hills Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand 2008 |
| Laxas Albarino, Rias Baixas, Spain 2008 |
| Manu Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand 2009 |
| Matua Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand 2008 |
| McWilliam's Hanwood Estate Chardonnay, Southeastern Australia 2007 |
| Mirrasou Sauvignon Blanc, California 2008 |
| Neudorf Nelson Sauvignon Blanc, Nelson, New Zealand 2008 |
| Nicolas Feuillatte Brut Rose Champagne, France NV |
| Oyster Bay Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand 2009 |



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| Ponga Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand 2009 |
| Ritratti Muller-Thurgau, Trentino, Italy 2008 |
| Santa Cristina Camporgrande Orvieto, Tuscany, Italy 2008 |
| Sebeka Chenin Blanc, Western Cape, South Africa 2008 |
| Sherwood Estate Sauvignon Blanc, Waipara, New Zealand 2008 |
| St. Clair Vicars Choice Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand 2009 |
| St. Supery "Oak-Free Chardonnay," Napa Valley, California 2008 |
| St. Supery "Virtu" Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc, Napa Valley, California 2007 |
| Staete Landt Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand 2008 |
| Tariquet Sauvignon Blanc, Gascogne, France 2008 |
| Wairu River Wines Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand 2009 |
| Zeepaard Sauvignon Blanc, Western Australia 2008 |

COUNTRIES AND NUMBER OF ENTRIES

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|---------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Argentina, 7 | Germany, 6 | South Africa, 7 |
| Australia, 18 | Hungary, 1 | Spain, 8 |
| Chile, 9 | Italy, 16 | <i>United States, 114</i> |
| France, 20 | New Zealand, 47 | |

UNITED STATES, 114 ENTRIES

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|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| California, 86 | Oregon, 4 | South Dakota, 3 |
| New York, 7 | Virginia, 5 | Washington, 9 |

OYSTERS TO BE SERVED AT THE OYSTER RIOT

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| <u>Olympia:</u> Olympia | <u>Ostrea lurida</u> Totten Inlet, WA |
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| <u>European Flat:</u> Harpwell Flat | <u>Ostrea edulis</u> Casco Bay, ME |
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| <u>Pacific:</u> Fanny Bay Gold Creek Kusshi | <u>Crassostrea gigas</u> Baynes Sound, BC Hood Canal, WA Stellar Bay, BC |
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| <u>Eastern:</u> Bee's River Bluepoint Cape Breton Cape Cod Bay Conway Cup Matunuck | <u>Crassostrea virginica</u> East Ham, MA Norwalk Harbor, CT North Harbor, NS Cape Cod Bay, MA Cascumpeque Bay, PEI Potters Pond, RI |
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OLD EBBITT GRILL

Eastern:

Mayflower Point
Moon Shoal
Pemaquid
Princeton Point
Quonset Point
Raspberry Point
Taunton Bay
Thatch Island
Wellfleet
Wianno
Wild Goose

Crassostrea virginica

Nobscusset Harbor, MA
Barnstable Harbor, MA
Damariscotta River, ME
Conway Narrows, PEI
Narragansett Bay, RI
New London Bay, PEI
Taunton Bay, ME
Barnstable Harbor, MA
Wellfleet Harbor, MA
Barnstable Harbor, MA
Narragansett Bay, RI