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## **Chef Smackdown and Grand Tasting a Success for Chesapeake Bay Wine Classic Foundation**

*Event Raises \$10,000 for Charity*

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. --- Approximately 1,250 people attended this year's Chesapeake Bay Wine Classic Foundation Grand Tasting, which raised \$10,000 for Access College Foundation and other local educational charities. Guests of the 19th annual event had the opportunity to sample hundreds of wine selections from around the world, attend exciting seminars, and enjoy specialty cuisine prepared by local chefs.

This was the first year for the Wine Classic Chef Smackdown, hosted by Kevin Brauch of Iron Chef America. Six local chefs competed for the title and were evaluated by an elite group of food industry judges. Judges were Chef Todd Jurich of Todd Jurich's Bistro, Patrick Evans-Hylton, food and wine editor at Hampton Roads Magazine, Richard Ernsberger, editor of Virginia Living, Sam McGann, chef and owner of Vintage Tavern, River Stone Chophouse and The Blue Point, and Janie Jacobson, cookbook author and culinary instructor from Kitchen Barn. Team "Chocolate Duo", comprised of Chef Meredith Adams of Eurasia Café and Chef Alvin Williams of Cobalt Grille, both of Virginia Beach, was the overall winner. Points in the competition were based on taste, presentation, recipe creativity and degree of difficulty.

"This year's first ever Chef Smackdown was an overwhelming success and a great addition to the Grand Tasting," said Jennie Capps, executive director of the Chesapeake Bay Wine Classic Foundation. "In hosting this event, we are proud to partner with the local businesses and restaurants to make contributions that impact the lives of those who strive for a higher education within the Hampton Roads community."

Participating restaurants in this year's event, held on April 11 at the Virginia Beach Convention Center, included Abbey Road Restaurant, Aqua Restaurant, Bardo Edibles & Elixirs, Cabot Creamery, Catch 31, Distinctive Gourmet, Eurasia Café, Gosport Tavern, Just Cupcakes, Lucky Oyster Seafood Grill, One Fish Two Fish, Passion Restaurant, River Stone Chophouse, Ruth's Chris Steak House, Salacia, Steinhilber's Thalia Acres Inn, Still Worldly Eclectic Tapas, Surf Club Beach Grill, Terrapin Restaurant, The Blue Point Bar & Grill and Vintage Tavern.

Sponsors this year included Farm Fresh, Sinclair Communications, Gold Key /PHR Hotels and Resorts, Priority Auto Group, Meridian Group, Davis and Company, VBNightlife.com, Fiji Water and Birsch Industries. **For more information concerning the Grand Tasting, please call (757)200-WINE or visit [www.cbwc.org](http://www.cbwc.org).**

### **About The Chesapeake Bay Wine Classic Foundation:**

The Chesapeake Bay Wine Classic Foundation is a non-profit, charitable organization dedicated to the belief that the future strength and prosperity of our region and nation are dependent on the education of our youth. Since its inception in 1990, the Foundation has

raised and distributed millions of dollars to organizations which have supported the youth of South Hampton Roads, enabling thousands to pursue higher education, meaningful careers and fulfilling lives. In order to fund its mission, the Foundation stages a variety of events, highlighted by the Annual Grand Auction, for those with a special interest in enjoying, sharing and collecting wines. The primary beneficiary of the Foundation is Access College Foundation.