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BIG FRESNO FAIR ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 5TH ANNUAL SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY OLIVE OIL COMPETITION

An incredible 38 entries were received despite the olive shortage this year

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA, April 10, 2019...After an extensive judging of quality California-produced olive oils, The Big Fresno Fair is excited to reveal the winners of the 5th Annual San Joaquin Valley Olive Oil Competition (SJCOOV). This competition, open to all olive oil producers in California with products made from their 2018 olive harvest, received a total of 38 entries from 10 olive oil producers from throughout the State.

Entries were received in two divisions, 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” selected from all of the highest scoring gold medal entries in both classes. New this year, the “Best of the Valley Award” was added to the competition. In total there were 27 EVOO and 9 Flavored Olive Oil entries that were entered for judging. The competition had one new producer who had previously never entered and ended up winning the “Best of Show” EVOO. The winners of the 5th Annual San Joaquin Valley Olive Oil Competition are:

Best of Show

Mountain Springs Olive Ranch *Arbequina* (Paso Robles)
Coldani Olive Ranch *Calivirgin Hot Virgin Jalapeno* (Lodi)

Best of the Valley

Boparai Farms *Frantoio 8/9* (Lemoore)
Coldani Olive Ranch *Calivirgin Hot Virgin Jalapeno* (Lodi)

Extra Virgin Olive Oils

• Gold Medal Winners

- **Spanish Blends:** Corto Olive Co. *Truly* (Stockton)
- **Spanish Singles:** Olivaia *Olivaia's Ola Estate Sevillano* (Lindsay), Mountain Springs Olive Ranch *Arbequina* (Paso Robles), The Olive Press *Sevillano* (Sonoma), The Olive Press *Arbosana* (Sonoma), Corto Olive Co. *Arbosana* (Stockton)
- **Italian Blends:** Boparai Farms *Frantoio 8/9* (Lemoore)
- **Other Blends:** Organic Roots Olive Oil *Organic Koroneiki* (Maxwell), Rosenthal Olive Ranch *Koroneiki* (Madera), Corto Olive Co. *Koroneiki* (Stockton)

• Silver Medal Winners:

- **Spanish Blends:** Olivaia *Olivaia's Ola Block X Blend* (Lindsay)
- **Spanish Singles:** Organic Roots Olive Oil *Organic Arbosana EVOO* (Maxwell), Organic Roots Olive Oil *Organic Arbequina EVOO* (Maxwell), Coldani Olive Ranch *Calivirgin Premium EVOO* (Lodi), The Olive Press *Picual* (Sonoma), Corto Olive Co. *Arbequina* (Stockton)





- **Italian Blends:** Coldani Olive Ranch *Lodi Olive Oil Miller's Blend* (Lodi), San Miguel Olive Farm *Tuscan Gold Eleganza* (San Miguel)
- **Other Singles:** The Olive Press *Heritage Mission* (Sonoma), Mountain Springs Olive Ranch *Koroneiki* (Paso Robles), Enzo Olive Oil Company *Bold* (Clovis)

Flavored Olive Oils

- **Gold Medal Winners**
 - **Pepper Flavored Olive Oils:** Coldani Olive Ranch *Calivirgin Jalapeno Garlic* (Lodi), Coldani Olive Ranch *Calivirgin Hot Virgin Jalapeno* (Lodi), Enzo Olive Oil Company *Fresno Chili* (Clovis)
- **Silver Medal Winners**
 - **Citrus:** Coldani Olive Ranch *Calivirgin Blood Orange* (Lodi)
 - **Herbal:** Enzo Olive Oil Company *Basil Crush* (Clovis)

“Despite an olive shortage for the 2018 harvest, we could not be more pleased with the showing of these amazing olive oil producers and excited to add a new one to the mix,” said Stacy Rianda, Deputy Manager II at The Big Fresno Fair. “It’s such a rewarding feeling to showcase these incredible California-produced olive oils through this competition.”

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 2019 Big Fresno Fair or have a booth at the Fair’s 2nd Annual Fall Wine Festival on Saturday, October 12. 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 2019 SJVOOC were evaluated and scored on the following criteria:

- **Gold Medal:** Awarded to an olive oil that demonstrated its type and/or varietal character, balance, structure and complexities to the highest standards. Gold Medals were awarded to those oils receiving scores between 86 - 100 points.
- **Silver Medal:** Awarded to an olive 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 were awarded to those oils receiving scores between 76 - 85 points.
- **Best of Show:** Awarded to an olive oil recognized to possess special characteristics of the highest quality overall.
- **NEW Best of the Valley:** Awarded to the oil that scored the highest with the ranch or office located in the San Joaquin Valley. Medals were awarded for both EVOO and flavored oils. (Kern, Tulare, Kings, Fresno, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties eligible)

Details and the 2020 SJVOOC entry application will be posted in February 2020.

About The Big Fresno Fair:

Members of the Board of Directors include: Debbie Jacobsen, President; Larry Serpa, Vice President; Jerry Pacheco, Secretary/Treasurer; Leta Ciavaglia; Gabriel Hernandez; Linda Mae Balakian Hunsucker; Charles Riojas and Lawrence Salinas. John C. Alkire heads the daily operations in his role as CEO. The 2019 Big Fresno Fair will run October 2-14. For more information about The Big Fresno Fair, please visit www.FresnoFair.com.

