



Holtzman Alumni Center (0102)
West Campus Drive
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Contact and Information:

Debbie Day (hokie@vt.edu)

Phone: 540/231-6285

www.alumni.vt.edu/VaVintnersTable

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 10, 2007

Virginia Tech is hosting "**Virginia Vintner's Table at Virginia Tech: *Presenting our Best Harvests***" weekend on **May 23-24, 2008** on the beautiful Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg, Virginia. The purpose of the event is to showcase world class wines being produced in Virginia. This will be an exceptional weekend featuring the most outstanding wineries within the state of Virginia and their wines, which have competed in and won awards on the national and international levels. The event will bring a better appreciation to the wines being produced in Virginia. *Travel + Leisure* magazine named Virginia as one of the "**Top 5 Regions to Visit Now**" in their July 2007 issue.

Virginia Tech is the state university in Virginia that has an enology program dedicated to the vineyards and wines of Virginia. A portion of the proceeds from this event will support the Wine/Enology Grape Chemistry Group at Virginia Tech by contributing to student scholarships and research facilities. Bruce Zoecklein, Enology Specialist and Professor of Food Science and Technology at Virginia Tech, and his group are involved in state wide, national, and international research including the effects of vineyard management and processing grape aroma and flavor precursors and wine analysis and production (www.vtwines.info).

Special guests include Dan Berger, Doug Frost and Kevin Zraly - more details on next page.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, May 23

Check-in and Registration
Optional Winery Tours throughout Southwest Virginia
Wine Tasting at Lane Stadium

Saturday, May 24

Opening Session
Morning Seminars and Tours of Wine/Enology Lab
Tailgating with Wine Lunch
Afternoon Seminars
Reception and Grand Banquet with Wine Pairing Dinner

Sunday, May 25

Virginia Vintner's Table Brunch Finale

Special Guests:

Dan Berger - Dan Berger has been a wine columnist since 1976 and has resided in Sonoma County since 1986. Today, in addition to his privately published weekly wine commentary, Dan Berger's Vintage Experiences, Dan writes a nationally syndicated wine column for Creators Syndicate as well as articles for Decanter, Robb Report, Cheers, Beverage Dynamics, and numerous other publications. Berger says, *"Virginia is one of a few states producing wines of structure. Wines must have structure or they don't belong on the dinner table."*

Doug Frost - Doug Frost is a Kansas City author who writes and lectures about wine, beer and spirits. In 1991 he passed the rigorous Master Sommelier examination and two years later became America's eighth Master of Wine in the American Midwest. He was the second person in history to complete both exams and eight years later he is still *one of only three people in the world* to have achieved both these remarkable distinctions.

Bruce Zoecklein - Bruce Zoecklein is the Head of the Enology-Grape Chemistry Group at Virginia Tech and conducts research, extension, class room and graduate student education. He has co-authored books on wine chemistry and analysis and produced numerous book chapters, research, trade, and extension publications. His research interests include secondary plant metabolites: aroma, flavor and phenol compounds. He regularly consults internationally and has consulted for the Romanian, Moldavian, Italian, Argentine and Chinese governments and has been invited to speak at numerous international symposia and meetings.

Kevin Zraly - Kevin was wine director of Windows on the World from 1976-2001. He is the author of the Windows on the World Complete Wine Course, the best selling wine book in the world. He is founder and instructor of the Windows on the World Wine School and a Culinary Institute of America's Board of

Trustees member. Zraly is a recipient of the prestigious James Beard Award and has been featured in many publications. His Windows of the World is currently being used at Virginia Tech.

Information on the teaching, research, and extension activities of the Enology-Grape Chemistry Group at Virginia Tech including *Enology Notes*, electronic technical briefs, is available at www.vtwines.info.

###