



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **BIG FRESNO FAIR ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY OLIVE OIL COMPETITION**

*A total of 66 entries were received from olive oil producers throughout California, with an increase in the number of EVOO entries*

**FRESNO, CALIFORNIA – May 7, 2018...**After extensive judging of quality California-produced olive oils, The Big Fresno Fair is excited to reveal the winners of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual San Joaquin Valley Olive Oil Competition (SJVOOC). This competition, open to all olive oil producers in California with products made from their 2017 olive harvest, received a total of 66 entries from 22 different olive oil producers from throughout the State.

Entries were received in two divisions, Extra Virgin Olive Oil and Flavored Olive Oil, with 10 classes in total, including the new Pepper Flavored Olive Oil class added this year. 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. In total there were 48 EVOO and 18 Flavored Olive Oil entries that were entered for judging. The competition had five new producers who had previously never entered, one of which was the “Best of Show” EVOO winner. The winners of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual San Joaquin Valley Olive Oil Competition are:

#### **Best of Show**

Olivaia’s *Olivaia Ola* (Lindsay)  
Enzo Olive Oil’s *Fresno Chili* (Clovis)

#### **Extra Virgin Olive Oils**

- **Gold Medal Winners**

- **Spanish Blends:** Olivaia’s *Olivaia Ola* (Lindsay) and Olive Crush Farms’ *California Arbequina* (Valley Springs)
- **Spanish Singles:** Organic Roots Olive Oil’s *Organic Arbosana Olive Oil* (Maxwell), Corto Olive Oil Company’s *Arbequina* (Stockton), The Olive Press’ *Picual EVOO* (Sonoma), Calivirgin-Coldani Olive Ranch’s *Calivirgin Premium EVOO* (Lodi) and Enzo Olive Oil’s *Delicate* (Clovis)
- **Italian Blends:** The Olive Press’ *Lunigiana Organic EVOO* (Sonoma), Lindsay’s *Robust California EVOO* (Walnut Creek), San Miguel Olive Farm’s *Tuscan Gold Eleganza* (San Miguel), San Miguel Olive Farm’s *Tuscan Gold Nectar* (San Miguel), San Miguel Olive Farm’s *Tuscan Gold Pristine* (San Miguel) and San Miguel Olive Farm’s *Tuscan Gold Supremo* (San Miguel)
- **Italian Singles:** Calivirgin-Coldani Olive Ranch’s *Lodi Olive Oil Frantoio* by Calivirgin (Lodi) and Winter Creek Olive Oil’s *Winter Creek Frantoio* (Valley Springs)
- **Other Singles:** Organic Roots Olive Oil’s *Organic Koroneiki Olive Oil* (Maxwell), Enzo Olive Oil’s *Bold* (Clovis), Mangini Ranch Olive Oil Company’s *Mangini Ranch Mission* (Wallace) and Bamford Family Farms’ *Bamford Family Farms Mission* (Oroville)

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- **Silver Medal Winners**

- **Spanish Blends:** Corto Olive Company's *Truly* (Stockton), La Panza Ranch California's *Outlaw Blend* (Santa Margarita) and Lindsay's *Buttery California EVOO* (Walnut Creek)
- **Spanish Singles:** Coppetti Olive Oil's *Copetti Estate Olive Oil Fall Harvest* (Modesto), Organic Roots Olive Oil's *Arbequina Olive Oil* (Maxwell), Corto Olive Company's *Arbosana* (Stockton), The Olive Press' *Arbosana EVOO* (Sonoma), The Olive Press' *Arbequina EVOO* (Sonoma), La Panza Ranch California's *Arbequina* (Santa Margarita), Enzo Olive Oil's *Medium* (Clovis) and Rosenthal Olive Ranch's *Arbosana* (Madera)
- **Italian Blends:** Alta Cresta Olive Oil's *Alta Cresta Tuscan Blend* (Paso Robles), Scarlata Farms Olive Oil's *Scarlata Farms Reserve* (Tracy) and Winter Creek Olive Oil's *Ruscello D'Inverno* (Valley Springs)
- **Italian Singles:** Alta Cresta Olive Oil's *Alta Cresta Coratina* (Paso Robles), Calivirgin-Coldani Olive Ranch's *Lodi Olive Oil Ascolano by Calivirgin* (Lodi) and Wild Groves' *Ascolano* (Newcastle)
- **Other Blends:** Wild Groves' *Robust Blend* (Newcastle)
- **Other Singles:** Corto Olive Co.'s *Koroneiki* (Stockton) and Oils of Paicines' *Mission* (Paicines)

### Flavored Olive Oils

- **Gold Medal Winners**

- **Citrus:** The Olive Press' *Limonato* (Sonoma)
- **Pepper Flavored Oils:** Enzo Olive Oil's *Fresno Chili* (Clovis), The Olive Press' *Jalapeno Olive Oil* (Sonoma), Calivirgin-Coldani Olive Ranch's *Calivirgin Jalapeno Garlic Olive Oil* (Lodi), Calivirgin-Coldani Olive Ranch' *Calivirgin Extreme Heat Habanero* (Lodi) and Calivirgin-Coldani Olive Ranch's *Calivirgin Hot Virgin Jalapeno* (Lodi)

- **Silver Medal Winners**

- **Citrus:** Calivirgin-Coldani Olive Ranch's *Calivirgin Blood Orange Olive Oil* (Lodi) and Calivirgin-Coldani Olive Ranch's *Calivirgin Lusty Lemon Olive Oil* (Lodi)
- **Herbal:** Bamford Family Farms' *Basil* (Oroville) and Calivirgin-Coldani Olive Ranch's *Calivirgin Bountiful Basil Olive Oil* (Lodi)
- **Other Flavors:** Calivirgin-Coldani Olive Ranch's *Calivirgin White Truffle Olive Oil* (Lodi) and Enzo Olive Oil's *Garlic Infused* (Clovis)

“The quality of entries into the San Joaquin Valley Olive Oil Competition continues to grow each year, elevating the profile of these awards and further showcasing California’s incredible olive oil industry,” said Stacy Rianda, Deputy Manager II at The Big Fresno Fair. “To be able to showcase these olive oil producers through this competition has been rewarding and we look forward to the continued growth of the San Joaquin Valley Olive Oil Competition next year with the addition of a new award.”

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 2018 Big Fresno Fair or have a booth at the Fair’s new Fall Wine Festival during the 2018 Big Fresno Fair on Saturday, October 13. 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.

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Participants in the 2018 SJVOOC had the opportunity to submit multiple entries under one category, but could not submit a particular entry to more than one category. For each entry, producers had to submit two, 250 ml bottles of their olive oil with retail labels and a \$60 non-refundable fee, per entry. Additionally, each entry had to be available for commercial sale at the time of submittal. Submissions were accepted from March 1 through April 18. All submissions 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.

In 2019, the SJVOOC will add a “Best of the Valley Award” for olive oil producers located in the Bakersfield to Sacramento footprint. For more details on this year’s competition, please visit [www.fresnofair.com/sjv-olive-oil-competition](http://www.fresnofair.com/sjv-olive-oil-competition). Details on next year awards, including the 2019 SJVOOC entry application will be posted in February 2019.

#### **About The Big Fresno Fair:**

The Big Fresno Fair, founded in 1884, is the fifth largest fair in the state of California and represents the 21st District Agricultural Association. More than 600,000 people from throughout the State visit The Big Fresno Fair each year making it the largest event in the Central Valley. Members of the Board of Directors include: Debbie Jacobsen, President; Larry Serpa, Vice President; Jerry Pacheco, Secretary/Treasurer; Leta Ciavaglia; Linda Mae Balakian Hunsucker; Elizabeth Hudson; Dora Westerlund and William White. John C. Alkire heads the daily operations in his role as CEO. The 2018 Big Fresno Fair will run October 3-14.

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