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## **TRIO OF SANTA MARIA VALLEY WINES NAMED TO WINE ENTHUSIAST'S TOP 100**

### **Locally Grown Wines Place Second, Sixth and Tenth in List**

*Santa Maria, California*—The Santa Maria Valley wine country is once again in the spotlight as the *Wine Enthusiast* has named three locally grown wines to the top ten slots of its annual list of “The Enthusiast 100: The Most Coveted Wines of 2010.”

The Fess Parker 2008 Chardonnay (96 points) from Bien Nacido Vineyard, the Byron 2008 Pinot Noir (96 points) from Nielson Vineyard and the Rusack 2008 Chardonnay Reserve (96 points) from Bien Nacido and Sierra Madre vineyards respectively rank second, sixth and tenth on the list. The list is published in the December 31 issue of the magazine.

According to the *Wine Enthusiast*, the list was developed from thousands of wines tasted throughout the year. Of the chosen wines, the magazine states, “These wines are truly exemplary, often represent the very best of their category, and should not be missed.”

The Santa Maria Valley earned a similar spotlight last year, when the Cambria 2006 Pinot Noir from Julia’s Vineyard ranked first in the Wine Enthusiast’s Top 100 list for 2009.

Additionally, another locally grown wine, the Tensley 2008 Syrah (95 points) from Colson Canyon Vineyard, was recently named to the Wine Spectator’s list of “Top 100 Wines of 2010.”

“The Santa Maria Valley’s reputation for producing remarkable Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and other varietals continues to grow,” said Gina Keough, manager of the Santa Maria Valley Visitor & Convention Bureau. “It demonstrates why wine touring has become such a major visitor attraction in the valley. People are coming here to experience some of the finest wines in the world.”

The Santa Maria Valley boasts a rare “transverse” geography, an east-to-west orientation that channels cool ocean air directly into the valley. The result is one of California’s longest growing seasons, which in turn ensures the development of complex, flavorful and exquisitely balanced grapes. Pinot Noir, Syrah and Chardonnay are among the varietals that excel in the region.

The Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce and Visitor & Convention Bureau offers visitors a complimentary booklet called *Santa Maria Valley Wine Country: A Guide to Local Wineries and Restaurants*, which includes profiles and contact information for local wineries and dining establishments. An accompanying map reveals the layout of the Santa Maria Valley wine country. The booklet is available for download at [www.SantaMaria.com](http://www.SantaMaria.com).

The Santa Maria Valley Wine Country Association also offers visitors extensive touring information and a downloadable map at [www.santamariavalleywines.com](http://www.santamariavalleywines.com).

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