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## **Plagido's Winery Wins "Winery of the Year"**

### **DiMatteo Vineyards, Hawk Haven Vineyards and Hopewell Valley Vineyards Earn Governor's Cup Awards in New Jersey Wine Competition**

Cream Ridge, NJ (May 31, 2016) – [Plagido's Winery](#) of Hammonton earned Winery of the Year honors at the annual New Jersey Wine Competition. The honor was bestowed on owner Ollie Tomasello at the Competition's awards ceremony, held this Saturday at the [Garden State Wine Growers Association's](#) (GSWGA) Wine & BBQ Festival at Schooley's Mountain Park in Long Valley. In addition to Winery of the Year, Governor's Cup trophies for best grape, fruit and dessert wines were also awarded for the competition organized by Dr. Gary Pavlis of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension that judged over 300 different wines from New Jersey wineries.

The Governor's Cup for Best Grape wine went to [Hawk Haven Vineyard](#) of Rio Grande for their 2012 Cabernet Franc, which also won Best Vinifera wine. [DiMatteo Vineyards](#) of Hammonton won the Governor's Cup for fruit wine for their non-vintage Blueberry wine and [Hopewell Valley Vineyards](#) of Pennington took home the Governor's Cup for Best Dessert wine for its 2006 Port wine.

In winning Winery of the Year, Plagido's Winery scored seven overall medals including two gold medals for their 2013 Cour d'Est and 2014 Cabernet Franc; two silver medals for the non-vintage Chambourcin and non-vintage Concetta's Casalinga and three bronze medals for their Blackberry Vigoroso, 2013 Cab Franc/Merlot and non-vintage Niagara.

"This honor means so much to us," said Ollie Tomasello. "This is a reflection on the hard work our family and team here have put into our winery. To think that I am the fourth generation member of our family to farm our land in Hammonton and now to win this honor gives me a great sense of satisfaction. We pride ourselves on the exceptional wine being made and the family atmosphere we have created for all our customers new and old at Plagido's Winery."

Other notable awards went to [Coda Rossa Winery](#) of Franklinville winning Best American wine honors for their non-vintage Concord wine and [Heritage Vineyards](#) of Mullica Hill earned Best Hybrid for their 2012 Late Harvest Chambourcin and Best Sparkling wine honors for the 2013 Brut. Heritage, the 2011, 2014 and 2015 winery of the Year earned the most medals in the competition with 16 including gold, six silver and nine bronze medals. [Alba Vineyard](#), of Finesville, the 2013 Winery of the Year, earned 11 medals with one gold, three silver and seven bronze medals. Coda Rossa also took home 11 medals with gold, three silver and seven bronze medals.

The GSWGA is a coalition of nearly 50 wineries and vineyards across New Jersey, dedicated to raising the quality and awareness of New Jersey wine. For the complete list of medal winners in the New Jersey Wine Competition, visit [www.newjerseywines.com/awards](http://www.newjerseywines.com/awards).