

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA – December 5, 2023

Wine Enthusiast names Charlottesville and the Monticello AVA 2023 Wine Region of the Year

On behalf of the entire Monticello American Viticultural Area (AVA), we are delighted to announce that Charlottesville has been honored as Wine Enthusiast's 2023 Wine Region of the Year. The prestigious global recognition underscores Charlottesville's position as a premier destination for wine enthusiasts, highlighting the outstanding quality and diversity of the wines within the Monticello AVA and those who produce them. We applaud the collective efforts of our community, comprised of over 40 wineries in Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Orange, and Nelson counties where more than half of all Virginia vineyards are planted.

The award from Wine Enthusiast, one of the industry's leading authorities, recognizes Charlottesville's unique terroir, the passion of its winemakers, and the collaborative spirit that defines the Monticello AVA. For over fifty years the Monticello AVA has attracted talents from the United States, France, Italy, South Africa, and beyond. From multi-generational winemaking families to passionate newcomers, our collaborative environment exemplifies a harmonious blend of tradition, innovation, and diversity. We recognize that our diversity is the foundation for crafting our exceptional and distinctive wines.

"We are thrilled to receive the esteemed title of Wine Enthusiast's 2023 Wine Region of the Year. This global acknowledgment honors our exceptional wines and the incredible experiences that Charlottesville and the Monticello AVA has to offer," said Stephen Bernard, Monticello Wine Trail Association President. "From the rolling hills of our vineyards to the warmth of our hospitality, Charlottesville is truly a destination where the art of winemaking converges with a rich cultural tapestry. We are immensely proud of our winemakers, vineyard managers, and all those who have played a part in shaping Charlottesville into a world-class wine destination."

The Monticello Wine Trail invites wine lovers from around the globe to explore the unique flavors, picturesque vineyards, and warm hospitality that have earned Charlottesville Wine Enthusiast's 2023 Wine Region of the Year. Whether savoring elegant Cabernet Franc, bold Petit Verdot, floral Viognier, classic Chardonnay and Merlot, or emerging varieties like Petit Manseng and more, our wineries offer unforgettable tasting experiences. Beyond the exquisite wines produced by the Monticello AVA, Charlottesville and the surrounding areas boast a captivating blend of scenic landscapes, historical charm, and a vibrant culinary scene. Visitors can indulge in outstanding vintages, vineyard tours, wine and food pairings, and cultural events. Charlottesville's diverse and world-class offerings have solidified its standing as a premier destination for wine enthusiasts.

As a testament to the region's prominence, Barboursville Vineyards was nominated for American Winery of the Year, adding another layer of distinction to our collective achievements. This recognition further underscores the caliber of winemaking talent present in the Monticello AVA and positions the region as a powerhouse in the global wine landscape.

For more information on the Monticello Wine Trail and upcoming events, please visit monticellowinetrail.com