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NEWS

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Central Kentucky's Best Food and Drink Honored at the 2008 Taste of the Bluegrass

LEXINGTON, Ky. – The finest food and drinks in Central Kentucky were represented this past weekend at the 28th annual Taste of the Bluegrass, presented by God's Pantry Food Bank and the Kentucky Restaurant Association's Bluegrass Chapter. Winners were selected in eight categories in both a Judges' Best and a People's Choice vote.

This year's Judges' Best winners included a Best Entrée win for Azur Restaurant's tiger shrimp encrusted in shredded fillo with a truffle tarter sauce and guave-quince emolition. The Signature Club of Landsdowne took home Best Appetizer/Soup for its sweet and spicy corn bisque. Wallace Station won the Best Dessert award for its "Dainty Delectables" and Great Harvest Bread took home the Best Bread title for its asiago cheese sourdough. The Campbell House won Best Salad for its bleu cheese cole slaw.

Sara Lee Coffee & Tea's Iced Cappuccino was judged Best Non-Alcoholic Beverage, while Maker's Mark took home the Best Liquor award for Maker's Mark on the Rocks. In the Best Beer category, Alltech's Lexington Brewing Company claimed a third straight award in the category, this year for its Kentucky Ale. Equus Run Vineyards rounded out the Judges' Best awards with a win in Best Wine for its Celebration White.

Judges for this year's contest included WTVQ-TV's Michelle Rauch, WLEX-TV's Dia Davidson-Smith, and WKYT-TV's TG Shuck. ClearChannel Lexington was represented by Gene Guinn, DeAnn Stephens from the "Moo Crew", Jason "Monkey Boy" Phillips, Dennis "Dead Air" Dillon, , while Jennifer Nime-Palumbo represented WDKY-TV. Anne Sabatino from the Chevy Chaser and The Southsider, Rhonda Reeves from Ace Weekly, Joe Gillespie and Jack Pattie from WVLK-AM, Elisa Mitchell from Northeast Christian Church, Raymond Smith from Community Trust Bank and Cathleen Collins rounded out the judging panel.

In the People's Choice vote, Azur Restaurant won for Best Appetizer, while Abuelo's Mexican Food Embassy took home the award for Best Entrée for its Los Mejores de la Casa. Best Dessert went to The Coach House for its chocolate crème brulee, while Great Harvest Bread won in the Best Bread category. The Campbell House again took home Best Salad honors. The Best Alcoholic Beverage went to Four Roses Distillery for the "Rose-a-Rita", and Coca-Cola of Lexington won for Best Non-Alcoholic Beverage for its Glaceau Vitamin Water.

Sullivan University was named the Best Decorated Food Booth and Four Roses Distillery earned Best Decorated Beverage Booth honors for a second consecutive year. Jodi Sundall of Winchester was the winner of the door prize drawing this year, taking home four dinners for two at Lexington's best restaurants.

More than 1,100 people attended this year's event, held at the Keene Barn and Entertainment Center at Keeneland. Next year's event is scheduled for May 29, 2009. Stay tuned to www.godspantry.org for more information.

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The mission of God's Pantry Food Bank is to reduce hunger in Kentucky through community cooperation making the best possible use of all available resources. We serve 50 counties of central and eastern Kentucky and distribute \$10 worth of food for every \$1 donated. Last year God's Pantry Food Bank and its member agencies distributed more than 13 million pounds of groceries to more than 159,000 individuals. God's Pantry Food Bank is a member of America's Second Harvest, the Nation's Food Bank Network. Through community partnerships and distribution of food to 50,000 agencies, America's Second Harvest collectively works to assure that people in need have access to a balanced diet. For more information visit us at <http://www.godspantry.org> or www.secondharvest.org.

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