

GOLD DIGGER *Cellars*



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GOLD DIGGER CELLARS STRIKES A GOLD MEDAL

2001 Riesling Ice Wine receives a Gold Medal at SpringFest Wine Festival, Hilton Head Island, SC. Merlot & Gewurztraminer earn Silver Medals

Oroville, Washington – April 24, 2003 Gold Digger Cellars 2001 Riesling Ice Wine has won the winery's first Gold Medal at the 18th Annual SpringFest Wine Festival in Hilton Head Island, SC. Gold Digger Cellars 2000 Merlot and 2001 Gewürztraminer also earned Silver Medals at the competition. SpringFest Wine Festival Judging & Competition is one of only 17 wine competitions sanctioned by the U.S. Wine Institute and listed in the yearly *Guide to U.S. Wine Competitions*. There was a record number 1,117 wine entries for this event with only 121 Gold Medals awarded, proving the quality and stature of the Hilton Head Island Competition. This up and coming winery has also earned an assortment of other honors this Spring.

Acknowledgement has come from the well-known Wine Press Northwest Magazine with complimentary reviews of the wines including an Outstanding Rating for the 2001 Riesling Ice Wine and the magazine's weekly newsletter named the 2001 Late Harvest Sauvignon Blanc, Pacific Northwest Wine of the Week for April 8, 2003. Recent recognition has also come from wine industry icon Dr. Randy Buckner, Wine Columnist, Tacoma News Tribune and New Releases Editor, Robin Garr's Wine Lovers' Page, who has given favorable reviews on several of Gold Digger Cellars wines and recently put the 2001 Chardonnay on his News Tribune Top Ten List of White Wines under \$15.

Gold Digger Cellars wines have acquired several medals this Spring including two Silver Medals for the Merlot and Gewürztraminer and three Bronze Medals for the Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Riesling Ice Wine at the Florida State Fair International Wine Competition, Tampa, FL and a Bronze Medal for the 2001 Chardonnay at the Jerry D. Mead's New World International Wine Competition in Ontario, CA.

"We are very pleased with our recent awards and recognition. We have been working hard to put the U.S. side of the Okanogan Valley on the wine map and are excited about our success so far." Commented Gold Digger Cellars Winemaker, Mike Buckmiller "We strive to make exceptional wines that are distinctive of our region, yet show the traditional character and fruit flavors of the grape. We are still a young winery just getting started and these awards have assured us we are headed in the right direction."

Gold Digger Cellars is the only winery in Washington State's Okanogan Valley, neighboring 50 plus Canadian Okanogan wineries, and is located in Oroville, Washington a turn of the century gold mining town in North Central Washington State on Highway 97. The small winery has years of experience, growing premium fruit in the Okanogan Valley, and they take pride in the local vineyards where 100% of the grapes are grown. The vineyards are carefully monitored to ensure the quality of the grapes and the development their flavor and complexity through progressive growing practices, mixed with a hot, arid, desert like growing climate. All the grapes are hand picked adding to the premium quality of the wines. Gold Digger Cellars is dedicated to producing quality, handcrafted wines with distinct flavors and characteristics of the region.