FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 23, 2011

Contacts: Tricia Levesque, CT Specialty Food Association
Tricia@ctfoodassociation.org or 860-677-8097

Linda Piotrowicz, CT Department of Agriculture
Linda.Piotrowicz@ct.gov or 860-713-2558

2011 CT Specialty Food Product Awards Announced

Hartford, CT – The CT Specialty Food Association (CSFA) held its tenth Product Awards Competition on Thursday, February 17, 2011, at the Aqua Turf in Plantsville. Three hundred twenty-nine specialty food items from Connecticut-based manufacturers were entered into 38 categories, with hopes of receiving the prestigious honor of CSFA Product Award Winner 2011. A complete list of Thursday’s winners appears below.

A panel of 40 judges consisting of local media personalities, food writers, and chefs from the CT Department of Agriculture’s Farm-to-Chef Program scored products on overall taste/flavor, consistency/texture, appeal, and color. Each judge was assigned to specific categories, responsible for evaluating an average of approximately 30 different products.

Categories included breads, cheese, confections, CT Grown, fruits and vegetables, gift packs, gluten-free, organic, pasta sauces, savory condiments, snack foods, and many others. We also proudly included a variety of CT wines along with beers, ales and distilled spirits all produced here in Connecticut. The wide array of products featured fresh breads, ice cream and sauces, jams and jellies, salad greens, pestos, pickles, juices, hot teas and coffees, flavored seeds, oils and vinegars, and much, much more.
“It is always amazing to see the diversity and quality of the foods and beverages made by producers right here in Connecticut,” said Tricia Levesque, CSFA Director. “This competition showcases the best of the best in the state. Each year we seem to find additional entrepreneurs looking to showcase the amazing products they produce. Not only are these products perfect for everyday meals and parties, they also make wonderful gifts. There is always something for every member of the family.”

“Purchasing products from Connecticut companies also fuels our local economy and helps create jobs here in our state, which is so important in today’s economy,” Ms. Levesque continued. “It really is a win-win for everyone – consumers get the best quality foods available and Connecticut companies stay strong.”

Consumers looking for CT specialty food products can visit www.ctspecialtyfood.org and ask for them at local markets and grocers.

CSFA is a subdivision of the CT Food Association and is a non-profit organization that represents small food businesses based in the state. The CT Department of Agriculture attends CSFA meetings and provides information to the organization as appropriate. To learn more, visit www.ctfoodassociation.org or email ctfood@ctfoodassociation.org.

THE CT SPECIALTY FOOD ASSOCIATION’S 2011 PRODUCT AWARDS COMPETITION WINNERS:

2011 Product of the Year

The Purple Pear by Tina, Willington, CT
Caramel Pecan Cream

Beer/Ale

1st Place Olde Burnside Brewing, East Hartford, CT
Ten Penny Reserve

2nd Place Olde Burnside Brewing, East Hartford, CT
Ten Penny Ale

3rd Place Olde Burnside Brewing, East Hartford, CT
Dirty Penny Ale

Bread - Quick

1st Place Rachel’s Cookies & Treats, Southington, CT
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>1st Place</th>
<th>2nd Place</th>
<th>3rd Place</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bread</td>
<td>Fairfield Bread Company, Fairfield, CT</td>
<td>Michele’s Pies, Norwalk, CT</td>
<td>Now That’s Good Bread, Colchester, CT</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Flaxette</td>
<td>Challah Bread</td>
<td>Olive Levain</td>
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<td>Salad Mix Greens</td>
<td>Arugula</td>
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<td>Urban Oaks Farm, New Britain, CT</td>
<td>Urban Oaks Farm, New Britain, CT</td>
<td>Wild Carrot Farm, LLC, Canton, CT</td>
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<td>Cheese - Aged</td>
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<td>Aged Bloomsday</td>
<td>TIE</td>
<td>Aged Bloomsday</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cato Corner Farm, LLC, Colchester, CT</td>
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<td>Dutch Farmstead</td>
<td>Cato Ransom Blue</td>
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<td>Winding Drive Corp., Woodbury, CT</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
2nd Place  Killam & Bassette Farmstead, LLC, South Glastonbury, CT
Strawberry Jam

3rd Place  TIE
Bishop’s Orchards Winery, LLC, Guilford, CT
Apple Cider
Simmons Family Farm, Farmington, CT
Vanilla Yogurt

**Dessert – Cake**

1st Place  Michele’s Pies, Norwalk, CT
Crumb Cake

**Dessert – Chocolate**

1st Place  The Purple Pear by Tina, Willington, CT
Chocolate Peanut Butter Hot Fudge

2nd Place  The Purple Pear by Tina, Willington, CT
Hot Fudge Cream

3rd Place  Cookie Wishes/Les Oliviers, Newtown, CT
Belgian Chocolate Truffle Dates w/Sprinkled Pistachios

**Dessert – Cookie**

1st Place  J. Foster Ice Cream, Avon, CT
Vanilla Chocolate Chunk Ice Cream Slider

2nd Place  Rachel’s Cookies & Treats, Southington, CT
Cranberry Pistachio Biscotti

3rd Place  TIE
Rachel’s Cookies & Treats, Southington, CT
Oatmeal Cranberry White Chocolate Chip Cookie
Rachel’s Cookies & Treats, Southington, CT
Molasses Cookie

**Dessert – Pie**

1st Place  Michele’s Pies, Norwalk, CT
Blueberry Blackberry Crumb Pie

2nd Place  Michele’s Pies, Norwalk, CT
Coconut Cream Pie

3rd Place  Michele’s Pies, Norwalk, CT
Chocolate Peanut Butter Dream Pie

**Distilled Spirits**
1st Place  Westford Hill Distillers, Ashford, CT
New World Aged Apple Brandy

2nd Place  Westford Hill Distillers, Ashford, CT
Poire Prisonniere Brandy

**Frozen Food**

1st Place  Michele’s Pies, Norwalk, CT
Australian Beef Pie

2nd Place  Michele’s Pies, Norwalk, CT
Quiche Lorraine

3rd Place  Michele’s Pies, Norwalk, CT
Ham & Brie Quiche

**Fruit or Vegetable**

1st Place  Urban Oaks Farm, New Britain, CT
Arugula

2nd Place  Urban Oaks Farm, New Britain, CT
Salad Mix Greens

3rd Place  Maple Lane Farms, LLC, Preston, CT
Hydroponic Bibb Lettuce

**Gluten Free**

1st Place  Aleia’s Gluten Free Foods, LLC, Branford, CT
Almond Horns

2nd Place  Passage Foods, Collinsville, CT
Moroccan Spiced Lemon Chicken

3rd Place  Giff’s Original, LLC, Cheshire, CT
Cranberry Pepper Relish

**Herb, Spice or Seasoning**

1st Place  Passage Foods, Collinsville, CT
Moroccan Spiced Lemon Chicken

2nd Place  Passage Foods, Collinsville, CT
Harissa Tomato Tomato & Bell Pepper Beef

**Honey/Syrup**

1st Place  Tiezzi Imports, Chester, CT
Arrigucci Honey

2nd Place  Turkeywoods Farm, Mystic, CT
Shagbark Hickory Syrup

3rd Place  Turkeywoods Farm, Mystic, CT
Hickory Nut Syrup

**Hors d’Oeuvre**

1st Place  J.F. Food Concepts, Inc./Fortuna Food Products, Burlington, CT
Fortuna’s Bruschetta - Mild

2nd Place  J.F. Food Concepts, Inc./Fortuna Food Products, Burlington, CT
Fortuna’s Bruschetta - Hot

3rd Place  Can’t Beet It, LLC, South Windsor, CT
Can’t Beet It – Hot Beet Horseradish

**Ice Cream/Gelato**

1st Place  Salem Valley Farms Ice Cream, Salem, CT
Vanilla Ice Cream

2nd Place  J. Foster Ice Cream, Avon, CT
Oreo Bomb Gelato

3rd Place  Salem Valley Farms Ice Cream, Salem, CT
Cow Track Ice Cream

**Jam**

1st Place  Dondero Orchards, LLC, South Glastonbury, CT
Hot Pepper Jelly

2nd Place  Dondero Orchards, LLC, South Glastonbury, CT
Blueberry Rhubarb Jam

3rd Place  Killam & Bassette Farmstead, LLC, South Glastonbury, CT
Chocolate Raspberry Jam

**Meat**

1st Place  Butcher’s Best Market, Newtown, CT
Beef Jerky

**Non-Alcoholic Beverage**

1st Place  Maple Lane Farms, Preston, CT
Black Currant Juice

2nd Place  Willoughby’s Coffee & Tea, Branford, CT
Kenya AA Igande Estate

3rd Place  Willoughby’s Coffee & Tea, Branford, CT
Costa Rica Jose Arce’s Finca Chepe

**Oil**

1st Place  Tiezzi Imports, Chester, CT
Cold Pressed Extra Virgin Olive Oil
2nd Place  Capa di Roma, East Hartford, CT
Extra Virgin Olive Oil

3rd Place  TIE
Ariston Specialties, LLC, New Britain, CT
Roasted Chili Infused Olive Oil
Ariston Specialties, LLC, New Britain, CT
Rosemary Infused Olive Oil

**Package Mix - Savory**

1st Place  Aurora Products, Stratford, CT
Salad Fixins

**Packaging**

1st Place  The Farmer’s Cow, Lebanon, CT
The Farmer’s Cow Milk

2nd Place  The Great New England Apple Company, New Canaan, CT
Red Barn Apple Sauce

3rd Place  The Purple Pear by Tina, Willington, CT
2 & 4 Jar Gift Packs

**Pasta Sauce**

1st Place  Capa di Roma, East Hartford, CT
Roasted Garlic Sauce

2nd Place  Chef Silvio’s of Wooster Street/New Med Foods, LLC, Guilford, CT
FraDiavolo Sauce

3rd Place  TIE
Capa di Roma, East Hartford, CT
Arrustica Sauce
Frank’s Marinara, Amston, CT
NY Style Sicilian Gravy

**Pesto**

1st Place  The Gracious Gourmet, Bridgewater, CT
Lemon Artichoke Pesto

2nd Place  Dondero Orchards, LLC, South Glastonbury, CT
Cilantro Pesto

3rd Place  Dondero Orchards, LLC, South Glastonbury, CT
Basil Pesto

**Pickle, Relish or Tapenade**
1st Place  Dondero Orchards, LLC, South Glastonbury, CT  
Dilly Beans

2nd Place  Dondero Orchards, LLC, South Glastonbury, CT  
Dill Pickles

3rd Place  The Gracious Gourmet, Bridgewater, CT  
Chili Red Pepper Tapenade

**Salsa**

1st Place  Mama Manju’s Salsa, Chester, CT  
Mama Manju’s Medium Salsa

2nd Place  Mama Manju’s Salsa, Chester, CT  
Mama Manju’s Fandango Mango Salsa

3rd Place  Mama Manju’s Salsa, Chester, CT  
Mama Manju’s Black Bean & Corn Salsa

**Savory Condiment**

1st Place  White Silo Winery, Sherman, CT  
Quince Mustard

2nd Place  TIE

   Bessel’s Best, Collinsville, CT  
   Whole Grain Mustard

   Winding Drive Corp., Woodbury, CT  
   Habanera Gold Jelly

   Winding Drive Corp., Woodbury, CT  
   Roasted Garlic Caramelized Onion

3rd Place  White Silo Winery, Sherman, CT  
Black Currant Mustard

**Snack Food**

1st Place  Rachel’s Cookies & Treats, Southington, CT  
Peanut Brittle

2nd Place  TIE

   Rachel’s Cookies & Treats, Southington, CT  
   Candied Pecans

   Sweet Maven’s, LLC, East Hartford, CT  
   Meringue Baked Almonds & Pecans

3rd Place  Nothin’ But Foods, Westport, CT  
Ginger Lemon Cashew Bar
**Sweet Topping**

1st Place  The Purple Pear by Tina, Willington, CT  
Caramel Pecan Cream 

2nd Place  The Purple Pear by Tina, Willington, CT  
Fresh Summer Berry 

3rd Place  Cookie Wishes/les oliviers, Newtown, CT  
Belgian Chocolate Dessert Sauce w/Pecans & Dates 

**Vinegar**

1st Place  Ariston Specialties, LLC, New Britain, CT  
Traditional Balsamic Vinegar 

2nd Place  Capa di Roma, East Hartford, CT  
Aged Balsamic Vinegar 

3rd Place  Ariston Specialties, LLC, New Britain, CT  
White Balsamic Condiment 

**Wine - Blush**

1st Place  Bishop’s Orchards Winery, LLC, Guilford, CT  
Amazing Grace 

2nd Place  Sunset Meadow Vineyards, Goshen, CT  
SMV Sunset Blush 

3rd Place  Bishop’s Orchards Winery, LLC, Guilford, CT  
Apple Raspberry Blush 

**Wine - Dessert**

1st Place  Hopkins Vineyard, New Preston, CT  
Ice Wine 

2nd Place  Bishop’s Orchards Winery, LLC, Guilford, CT  
Strawberry Delight 

3rd Place  Gouveia Vineyards, Wallingford, CT  
Epiphany Reserve 

**Wine - Fruit**

1st Place  Jones Winery, Shelton, CT  
Black Currant 

2nd Place  Bishop’s Orchards Winery, LLC, Guilford, CT  
Stone House White 

3rd Place  Jones Winery, Shelton, CT  
First Blush 

**Wine - Red**
1st Place  Stonington Vineyards, Stonington, CT  
Cabernet Franc

2nd Place  Jones Winery, Shelton, CT  
Cabernet Franc

3rd Place  Jonathan Edwards Winery, North Stonington, CT  
Cabernet Franc

**Wine - Rosé**

1st Place  Gouveia Vineyards, Wallingford, CT  
Whirlwind Rosé

2nd Place  Sunset Meadow Vineyards, Goshen, CT  
SMV Rosé

3rd Place  Hopkins Vineyard, New Preston, CT  
Lady Rosé

**Wine - White**

1st Place  Jones Winery, Shelton, CT  
Pinot Gris

2nd Place  Taylor Brook Winery, Woodstock, CT  
Traminette

3rd Place  Jonathan Edwards Winery, North Stonington, CT  
2009 Chardonnay

CONNECTICUT FOOD ASSOCIATION  
Visit us at [www.ctfoodassociation.org](http://www.ctfoodassociation.org)  
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