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Virginia Cider Makers Featured at Blair House Holiday Event

Washington, D.C.—A special holiday showcase at Blair House, the nation's official guesthouse, featured hard cider from Foggy Ridge Cider and Albemarle Ciderworks, two Virginia farm wineries. The Magazine Publishers of America and the US State Department hosted the December 7 gathering, which celebrated American artisan foods and beverages and featured historic rooms decorated by America's top magazines.

"We were thrilled to offer hard cider from Albemarle Ciderworks and Foggy Ridge Cider to hundreds of dignified State Department guests as part of our showcase of artisan food and beverages" said Tabitha Alterman, Senior Associate Editor of Mother Earth News, one of the host magazines. "We are happy that talented cidermakers are reviving this important American tradition."

Diane Flynt, President and Cidermaker at Foggy Ridge Cider, recruited cidermakers from across the US to participate in this event. "Hard cider is a perfect holiday beverage and we were honored to present our Virginia products at Blair House. The cidermakers represented at this event all grow uncommon apples chosen for hard cidermaking, and craft beautiful ciders with a wide range of flavors."

Jason Larkin, Chef and Event Manager of the US Department of State, praised Virginia cider. "It was an absolute pleasure to have the opportunity to serve such a wide variety of hand crafted apple cider. It is our goal at the Department of State to showcase American artisanal food to our distinguished guests. Every cider was truly unique and reflective of not only the apple varieties and techniques used, but also the personality of the individual making them."

Martha Stewart Living, Better Homes and Gardens, This Old House and Mother Earth News were among the magazines that decorated the historic Blair House rooms. Following the Blair House reception, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton welcomed guests at the US State Department and spoke to the families of US government employees serving unaccompanied tours overseas.

Foggy Ridge Cider, located in the Virginia Blue Ridge Mountains, near Floyd, VA, produces three hard cider blends, as well as Pippin Gold, a dessert cider blend of hard cider and apple brandy.

Albemarle Ciderworks is a new farm winery located outside Charlottesville, VA. Cidermaker Chuck Shelton crafts three ciders, including Jupiter's Legacy, a dry cider made with historic cider apples.

www.foggyridgecider.com www.albemarleciderworks.com