



***KLUGE ESTATE SPARKLING WINES WIN MEDALS IN THE
EFFERVESCENTS DU MONDE INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION***

December 11, 2008, Charlottesville, VA -- Kluge Estate Winery and Vineyard announces that it has been awarded a Gold Medal for the *Kluge SP Rosé 2004* and a Bronze Medal for the *Kluge SP Blanc de Blanc 2004* in the prestigious *Effervescents du Monde* international competition between the best sparkling wines in the world.

The Effervescents du Monde 2008 competition, in its sixth year, took place on November 13-14th at the Lycée Le Castel Culinary School in Dijon, France. The competition occupies a special place amongst international competitions due to its scope, method and ambition: 28 countries are represented and it implements an exacting selection of judges and scientific analysis of results. Kluge Estate was the only United States winery awarded Gold, out of 418 submitted wines.

Kluge's brand of sparkling wines – SP Blanc de Blanc, SP Rosé, SP Blanc de Noir and SP Reserve Blanc de Blanc – has stood out among Virginia sparklers in addition to sparkling wines up and down the East Coast and even on the West Coast. The winery's sparkling program is headed by Laurent Champs of Vilmart et Cie, of Champagne, France, and the on-site winemaker is Charles Gendrot. The SP wines are made in the *méthode traditionnelle* from Kluge Estate's finest grapes.

Established in 1999, Kluge Estate Winery and Vineyard aspires to be one of the East Coast's most prestigious wineries. Helmed by Patricia Kluge, the winery is tucked into Carter's Mountain on the edge of the picturesque Blue Ridge Mountains in Charlottesville, Virginia. Kluge's 2,000-acres are just miles from the birthplace of American viticulture, Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. Combining meticulous winemaking practices and talent with a genuine love of the land and support for the Virginia wine community, Kluge Estate is capitalizing on the region's potential to create world-class wines. Kluge Estate's accomplished team and terroir reinforces the promise of good things to come.

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