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Regional Wine at the Obama Inauguration

Yesterday I wrote about [a potential diplomatic gaffe](#) in wine choices at next week's presidential inauguration. Tonight I'm happy to report more positive news - that one inaugural gala will feature a regional wine, a testament to how local wine is improving throughout the United States.

[Barboursville Vineyards](#), Virginia's premier winery, will have two wines featured at the Inaugural Conservation Gala in Washington on January 19, the night before President-elect Barack Obama takes the oath of office. If, like me, you just said, "Huh?" - the gala is hosted by the [International Conservation Caucus Foundation](#), a lobbying group that promotes good resource management practices. The gala will feature Barboursville's **Cabernet Franc Reserve 2006** during the reception and the **Octagon 2005**, the winery's premier Merlot-based Bordeaux blend, at the dinner. Winemaker **Luca Paschina** is justly proud of Octagon. He argues that Virginia, in order to prove itself as a world-class wine region, needs to produce top-notch wine consistently over a number of vintages, and that Octagon, now in its eighth vintage, is that wine. Octagon is consistently a stylish, elegant red that resembles Bordeaux more than California.

Congratulations to Luca and the Barboursville team!
And remember to [Drink Local Wine!](#)

For more information on Virginia wine, including a talk by Luca Paschina on traveling Virginia wine country, click [here](#).

Photo of Luca Paschina from the Barboursville Web site.

