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## RAMONA VALLEY HONORS LUM EISENMAN

Sunday, 24 June 2007 was declared by proclamation of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors to be Lum Eisenman Day throughout the County. The proclamation was awarded during a Ramona Valley Vineyard Association recognition banquet marking the first annual Lum Eisenman Ramona Valley Wine Competition.

Mr. Eisenman has been involved in small wineries and home winemaking for all of his adult life and has devoted himself to teaching upcoming grape growers and winemakers in the area. The Ramona Valley area of San Diego County has particularly benefited from his generous assistance and thanked him Sunday night by presenting the first Ramona Valley Wine Competition awards in his name, and unveiling the County proclamation sponsored by Supervisor Dianne Jacob.

The award was the highlight of the evening and marked a long anticipated recognition of the re-establishment of premium grape growing and wine making in San Diego County.

Mr. Eisenman has been a lifelong resident of southern California, spending the last 57 years in San Diego County. He worked as a teenager in the Zinfandel vineyards and wineries of the Cucamonga Valley, and then spent a career as a physicist, while making garage-based home winemaking an art form. Upon his retirement, he wrote and published *The Home Winemakers' Manual*, which he generously published on the internet for all to share ( [www.geocities.com/lumeisenman/](http://www.geocities.com/lumeisenman/)). He is a founding member of the San Diego County Amateur Winemaking Society ([www.sdaws.org](http://www.sdaws.org)) and the Ramona Valley Vineyard Association ( [www.ramonavalleyvineyards.org](http://www.ramonavalleyvineyards.org)). He now assists grape growers and winemakers throughout San Diego County, and is the Winemaker for Belle Marie Winery in North Escondido.

Also of historical note at the banquet was the table displaying 41 wine bottles - every one proudly listing "Ramona Valley" as the source for the grapes. The Ramona Valley was designated as an American Viticulture Area (AVA) in January 2006. The wines were made by 19 winemakers residing throughout San Diego County; 8 from commercially licensed wineries and 11 private winemakers. There were 28 red wines, 4 red blends, 4 white wines, 2 dessert and 1 rose' wine entered. 78% of the entries were very young - split between 2005 and 2006 vintages.

The judges were Lum Eisenman, Mike Menghini and Jim Jenkins. Due to the youth of the vineyards and wines, no first place ribbons were awarded this year. However, the judges did recommend three second place red ribbons and 19 white ribbons, all representing good examples of the Ramona Valley AVA's potential. Mike Menghini said that a significant majority of the wines he tasted were definitely of a commercial caliber and is looking forward to tasting the wines as the vineyards and experience levels of the winemakers develop.

Lum Eisenman said he is really looking forward to tasting Ramona Valley wines over the next five years, because the promise that was shown by the grape growers and winemakers this year will continue to improve and show its potential.

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For further information see [www.rvva.wetpaint.com](http://www.rvva.wetpaint.com) or contact Carolyn Harris [carolyn@chuparosavineyards.com](mailto:carolyn@chuparosavineyards.com) 760-788-0018.