



For Immediate Release

## 3 GOLD MEDALS AWARDED TO WINE FROM LEBANON

Record 20 Medals Won at Rodeo Uncorked®! International Wine Competition

**HOUSTON, TEXAS, November 22, 2022** – North American Wine & Spirit Importers, LLC (NAWSI) announced that an unprecedented 20 wines from its new wine program, [Wine from Lebanon](#), won awards at the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Rodeo Uncorked®! International Wine Competition hosted by Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™. From the sun swept terroir and ancient mountains and valleys, Wine from Lebanon launched in 2022, bringing the taste of 15 innovative winemakers from one of the oldest and finest wine growing regions in the world, introducing four unique indigenous grapes to the market. The Wine from Lebanon program features 15 winemakers including, several female-owned and managed wineries, winemakers under 40 years old, and winemakers utilizing indigenous grapes like Obaideh, Merwah, Meksassi and Sobbagiegh, some of which have never been tasted in the U.S.

This year's winners were announced on November 17<sup>th</sup> at NRG Center and featured 3,071 entries from 18 countries.

"I'm elated that this curated collection of Wine from Lebanon proved the quality of the portfolio by taking so many awards at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ International Wine Competition, said Constance McDerby, co-founder of NAWSI. After 20 years in the wine and beverage industry, these are the first products I've personally represented. The judging process is double-blind, further proving the great quality and drinkability of these wines. We are excited as we continue to make these wines available for Texans and beyond, so enthusiasts get the opportunity to Sip History. Sip Life. Sip Love."

### **2022 Wine from Lebanon Winners:**

#### ***Gold Medals***

Atibaia Red, 2014

Karam Maison Red, 2020 – *Reserve Class Champion*

Muse du Liban Chateua Ainata Rogue des Cedres, Cabernet Sauvignon 2019 – *Reserve Class Champion*

#### ***Silver Medals***

Cave Kouroun Syrah 2004

Chateau Cana Jardin Secret, Red 2013

Chateau Oumsiyat Obeidy, 2021

Chateau Oumsiyat Rosé, 2021

Couvent Rouge PetNat Gold, 2020 – *Reserve Class Champion*

Couvent Rouge Red, 2014

Domaine S.Najm White, 2020

Domaine Wardy Obeidi, 2017

Domaine Wardy Beqaa Valley Red, 2018

Karam Cloud Nine, White 2020

Terre Joie Soeur de Flur, Red 2017

#### ***Bronze Medals***

Ardoum Cabernet Sauvignon, 2018

Chateau Cana Mariage de Cana, Red 2014

Chateau St. Thomas Red, 2014

Couvent Rouge Rosé, 2020

Karam Les Rarettes, Meksassi 2020

Vertical 33 Cabernet Sauvignon, 2018

“On behalf of the winemakers from Lebanon, please accept my most heartfelt congratulations to our winners,” said Sam Jaoude, co-founder of NAWSI. “As a Lebanese American, I am proud to bring these extraordinary wines to the U.S. My legacy is to share the rich and captivating story behind the wines and the region. There is a sophistication to the wine, an authenticity to the makers, and love for convergence of passion and joy we all share!”

**SIP HISTORY. SIP LIFE. SIP LOVE.**

Lebanon is the oldest wine producing region in the world, tracing back 7,000 years to the seafaring Phoenicians. Lebanese people domesticated the grapes grown in what is recognized as one of the most geographically, ideal wine growing regions. The country’s dry, sunny climate and landscape is ideal for grape growing. The snow-capped Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon mountains provide protection for the high-elevation vines of the Bekaa Valley, many grown at more than 3,000 feet. Elevation plays a key role in the rugged hills of the Jezzine wine region in the south. In Batroun, a region north of Beirut, the vineyards are cooled by the Mediterranean Sea.

Wine from Lebanon will make its debut at retail in early 2023, details forthcoming. For more information contact [admin@nawsimporters.com](mailto:admin@nawsimporters.com) or to learn more about this curated collection of wine visit [winefromlebanon.com](http://winefromlebanon.com).

Please click [here](#) for photos of the gold medal winners.

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