



Proclamation Recognizing October as Wine Month

WHEREAS, from modest beginnings in colonial times, Virginia has become a nationwide leader in the wine industry, now 6th in the nation in wine grape production, with more than 10,000 tons harvested in 2021 and 2022 and more than 2 million visits to Virginia wineries annually; and

WHEREAS, wines from the Commonwealth, including those from Albemarle County, are winning state, national, and international awards and recognition for their elegant qualities, imparted by skilled vintners and Virginia's terroir; with Albemarle wineries being featured in the 2023 Governor's Cup Case and receiving numerous Gold Medal wine awards; and

WHEREAS, many of Albemarle's 44 vineyards, most with wineries on site, are run by families as strong agricultural enterprises that can be passed on to future generations, providing economic benefit for winery owners and employees and for other Albemarle ventures supported by the patronage and purchasing power of winery visitors, including farming of heritage and heirloom crops, restaurant cuisine committed to selling local where possible, and tourism focused on sustaining the land and the local culture; and

WHEREAS, Albemarle County values our wineries' stewardship, keeping their land producing and protected for agricultural uses, preserving scenic vistas, historic sites, and other amenities which make Albemarle wineries ideal places of entertainment, culture, enjoyment, and social engagement that enrich Albemarle County's quality of life and culture of hospitality.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that we, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors, do hereby recognize Albemarle County wineries and their contribution to the Virginia wine industry's success and encourage County residents and visitors to visit a winery or purchase local wines through local restaurants and shops during October 2023, Virginia Wine Month.

Signed this 4th day of October 2023.

Donna Price, Chair
Albemarle Board of County Supervisors