



**Proclamation
Virginia Wine Month**

- WHEREAS,** *from modest beginnings in colonial times, Virginia has become a nationwide leader in the wine industry, now 8th in the nation in grape production and 12th in the nation in wine production, and with wine sales growing 83 percent since 2010, to 705,166 cases of Virginia wine sold worldwide in fiscal year 2016; and*
- WHEREAS,** *wines from the Commonwealth, including those from Albemarle County, are winning national and international awards and recognition for their elegant qualities, imparted by skilled vintners and Virginia's terroir; and*
- WHEREAS,** *many of Albemarle's 35 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,** *in 2016 Albemarle County had the 2nd most bearing acres of grapes in the state - 424 acres, or 16.5% of the state's total bearing acres -- and is part of the central region of Virginia which produced the most tons of grapes - 2,744 tons, or 42% of the total in the state in 2016; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Albemarle County values our wineries' stewardship, keeping their land producing and protected in 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 RESOLVED,** *that the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors, does 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 2017, Virginia Wine Month.*

Signed and sealed this 11th day of October, 2017.

Norman G. Dill

Liz Palmer, Chair

Ann H. Mallek

Rick Randolph

Diantha H. McKeel

Brad L. Sheffield