

Nissley wines awarded 11 medals

BAINBRIDGE — Nissley Vineyards, of Lancaster County, has received 11 medals for eight of their vintage wines following the Wineries Unlimited Eastern Wine Competition.

A gold medal went to Nissley's 1979 Aurora — one of 22 wines which received gold medals out of 633 total wines entered.

According to Craig Goldwin, wine critic for the Chicago Tribune and one of the event's 25 wine judges, "The gold medal winners in the competition are truly world class wines, as good as any in the world of the same style."

Dick Nissley, owner and

active winemaker for Nissley Vineyards, accepted the medals at the awards banquet held at the Host Farm Resort, Lancaster, on Dec. 4, as part of the three-day Wineries Unlimited conference.

"We were very pleased to win so many medals," said Mr. Nissley. "We were competing with producers who have been making wine for many more years than we have."

The Nissley family opened their winery in July, 1978 with 7,000 gallons of wine from their first grape harvest of 1977. A total of 30,000 gallons of wine now fill their tanks from the 1980 harvest.

The increase in production

is due in large part to an increase in demand. "We certainly don't want to disappoint people who travel 20 miles or more to get the wine," said Nissley. The Nissley wines are available only at the Nissley winery which is located near Bainbridge among the rolling farmland hills of the Susquehanna Valley.

Nissley planted his first vines in 1972 at the encouragement of his son, John, who now is the vineyard manager. The 23 acres of vines include three acres of vinifera and 20 acres of French-hybrid grapes. All of the wines entered in the competition

were made from the French-hybrids.

Nissley also picked up three silver medals for Bainbridge White '79, Aurora '79, and Susquehanna White '79. Keystone Kiss '79 won a

bronze medal and was judged "Best of Class" as was Classic White '79. In addition, bronze medals were awarded to Bainbridge White '79; Colonnade '79, Bainbridge White '79; and Chelios '79.

Of 250 wine producers East of the Rockies, 70 entered wines in the competition. Nissley tied with Wiederkehr, of Arkansas, for the highest number of medals awarded to an eastern winemaker.



Gold medal wine is shown by Dick Nissley, left, owner and winemaker of Nissley Vineyards, Bainbridge, Lancaster County, to John Sydnos, of Lancaster.

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