

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – JUNE 5, 2021  
Travel Berkeley Springs - Berkeley Springs, WV

### **Big Wins at 31st Water Tasting In Berkeley Springs**

The Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting, the world's most prestigious, gave out awards to waters from four continents. Five continents had waters entered, including 14 countries and 19 states. In the municipal water category, the best in the world for 2021 was Rossarden, Tasmania, Australia. A battle of California champions saw Metropolitan Water District of Southern California judged best in the US. They last won gold in 2008. The Silver medal went to Santa Ana, CA, who won gold in 2018. Bronze was awarded to Southwest Water Authority, Dickinson, ND, followed by Ft Wayne, IN.

“The consistency in winners from year to year with different panels of judges validates the choices,” remarked perennial watermaster, Arthur von Wiesenberger. “It also speaks to the impressively high caliber of the waters entered.”

The Best Bottled Water category winner was Ulunom, Shizuoka, Japan. The same company won gold, 4th and 5th with different waters last year. Silver medal winner this year, Eldorado Natural Spring Water, Eldorado Springs, CO, is a past medalist. Bronze was Jasa Spring Water, Gorham, ON, Canada, with Samaria Natural Spring Water, Crete, Greece in 4th, and Grand Springs Spring Water, Alton, VA, in 5th.

The event proved valuable for bottled waters both carbonated and still. Companies can use a win in Berkeley Springs for bragging rights and often redesign their labels to include the medal image. Over a dozen entrants in the 2021 contest sported a medal decorated label.

Nine media judges spent hours tasting and selecting from waters sourced in 19 states, three Canadian provinces and 14 foreign countries. “Our total of countries over the life of the event is 57 including waters from Tasmania, Turkey, Bosnia, Greece and Australia” said Jill Klein Rone, event producer.

Sparkling water winners were sourced from four continents ranging from New Zealand to Grenada. The gold medal went to Fleck Sparkling Mineral Water, Gibbston, New Zealand. The silver medal was awarded to Samaria Sparkling Water, Chania, Crete, Greece. Last year's silver medal winner, Mount Pure Sparkling Water, St. George's, Grenada, West Indies, won bronze. Multiple medal winner, Tesanjski Kiseljak, Tesanj, Bosnia & Herzegovina, came in 4th. Representing the United States, 5th place was a tie between Castle Rock Sparkling Glacial Water, Shasta Springs, CA and Mountain Valley Sparkling Spring Water, Hot Springs, AR.

Purified water was added as a category in 2001. The gold medal winner is Ophora Hyper-Oxygenated Water, Santa Barbara, CA, who won gold in 2018. The silver medal went to last year's gold medal winner, Waterfy Me of Gaithersburg, MD. Lesage Natural Water of Lesage, WV, which won gold in the past and boasts the medal on its label, won bronze.

"It was another wonderful year for the longest running and largest water tasting in the world," said von Wiesenberger. "Berkeley Springs is truly the Olympics of water." New this year was online voting for the People's Choice package design. The packaging category had 12 entrants competing for most alluring. Kariba, from Milton, Ontario, Canada, with its black, blue and white aluminum can with resealable top was the runaway winner. Svalbaroi Polar Iceberg Water from Longyearbyen, Norway won the silver this year, adding to their four consecutive gold medals. The bright Hawaiian blooms on

the aqua bottle earned Hawaiian Springs Natural Artesian Water, Kea'au, HI, the bronze. Fleck Sparkling Mineral Water, Gibbston, New Zealand was 4th and Vibrant WTR, Hamilton, OH, 5th.

The nine media judges selected by Klein Rone included representatives from various regional and national media including television, newspapers and online magazines. They were instructed by von Wiesenberger to look, sniff and taste each water under guidelines similar to those in a wine tasting. The waters were rated for each attribute including appearance (it should be clear - or slightly opaque for glacial waters), aroma (there should be none), taste (it should taste clean), mouth feel (it should feel light), aftertaste (it should leave you thirsty for more). The judges' job is crucial and so is their training. All judges are presented with a diploma designating them as a Certified Water Taster.

Jeanne Mozier, founder of the Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting and Executive Producer, VP, marketing director and founder of Travel Berkeley Springs, was posthumously awarded the Lifetime Achievement award. Things were a little different this year, with no water rush to close the evening. Participants, including representatives present from as far away as Tajikistan and Hawaii, were very pleased that extra water was donated to the Eastern Panhandle Empowerment Center.

The event seminar on Friday and Saturday's award ceremony were live streamed and are archived for future viewing on the BerkeleySpringsWV Facebook page. The 32nd annual Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting is scheduled for Saturday, February 26, 2021. For more information on Berkeley Springs or its water tasting, call 1-800-447-8797 or check the website.