



For Immediate Release
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Contact: Jen Beltz, Front Burner PR
Ph: 207.699.5502 jen@frontburnerpr.com

Maine Distilleries LLC, Creator of Cold River Vodka, Honored by U.S. Commerce Association with “2009 Best of Freeport Award”

Freeport, Maine – Maine Distilleries LLC, creator of Maine-made Cold River Vodka (www.coldrivervodka.com), has earned the “2009 Best of Freeport Award” in the Distilled & Blended Liquors category from the U.S. Commerce Association (USCA). Bob Harkins, Cold River Vodka’s director of sales and marketing, received news of the award on July 7.

The USCA “Best of Local Business” Award Program recognizes outstanding businesses throughout the country. Each year, USCA personnel identifies companies that they believe have achieved exceptional marketing success in their community and business category, and that have enhanced the positive image of small business through service to their customers and community.

Various sources of information were gathered and analyzed to choose the winners in each category, according to USCA. The 2009 USCA Award Program focused on quality, not quantity. Winners are determined based on information gathered both internally by the USCA and data provided by third parties.

Cold River Vodka, hand-crafted from Maine potatoes, also has earned attention from several national press outlets in recent weeks. In its June issue, *Wine Enthusiast* named Cold River Blueberry Flavored vodka – made using wild Maine blueberries – to its “Next-Gen Flavored Vodkas” list, writing that “the soul-satisfying vodka has a voluminous bouquet and a finish like the holy chorus of blueberries. It’s an 80-proof homage to nature.” *Foods Discovered* agreed, calling Cold River Vodka: “The smoothest and cleanest vodka possible” (<http://tinyurl.com/mmhqhp>), while Jason Wilson, Spirits columnist at *The Washington Post*, recently wrote that the triple-distilled, gluten-free vodka “has become one of [his] favorite vodkas” (<http://tinyurl.com/mzufgs>).



www.coldrivervodka.com

About Cold River Vodka

Founded in 2005, Cold River Vodka, located in Freeport, Maine, is the brainchild of four talented Maine entrepreneurs: Donnie Thibodeau, who owns Green Thumb Farms in Fryeburg, ME; his brother, Lee Thibodeau, a neurosurgeon in Portland, ME; Bob Harkins, a former Sunday River ski executive from Paris, ME; and Chris Dowe, Distiller, from New Gloucester, ME.

Known for its distinct nose and satin-smooth finish, the gluten-free vodka is hand-crafted and batch-distilled in a copper potstill, using water from Maine’s Cold River and farm-fresh Maine potatoes. Maine Distilleries, which produces only Cold River Vodka, is the only “ground-to-glass” distillery in the nation, where the company controls every aspect of production from the planting of the potatoes to final bottling. The award-winning vodka currently is available at major markets, restaurants, and fine spirits retailers in a growing number of states throughout the U.S., as well as in western Canada and London.

For more information, visit www.coldrivervodka.com or call (207) 865-4828.

For photo requests or to schedule an interview with Cold River Vodka’s Director of Sales and Marketing, Bob Harkins, contact Jen Beltz at (207) 699-5502 or jen@frontburnerpr.com.

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