

For Immediate Release

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The Musician's Zinfandel takes a bow at the 2012 Film Independent Forum

The right wine can steal the spotlight.

Renwood Winery's 2010 Musician's Zinfandel was a star performer at the 2012 Film Independent Forum from Oct. 19 - 21.....The eighth annual event was hosted by Film Independent, a nonprofit arts organization dedicated to supporting and providing resources for the independent film community. Film Independent also produces the Spirit Awards and Los Angeles Film Festival.

This year's forum was held at the Directors Guild of America in Los Angeles and featured three days of thought-provoking panels, networking opportunities and celebrating independent films.

Film Independent's Director of Film Education, Maria Bozzi, said in an email that the event drew more than 450 people, consisting of "a mix between emerging independent producers and directors to more seasoned filmmakers, executives, and film professionals from different fields."

Friday's opening night began with a screening of *Silver Linings Playbook*, a film by David O. Russell (*The Fighter*), starring Bradley Cooper (*The Hangover*), Robert De Niro (*Meet the Parents*) and Jennifer Lawrence (*The Hunger Games*).

The audience was spellbound during the emotional performances by Cooper and Lawrence. With scenes that ranged from painful to hilarious – and sometimes both – the film gave attendees plenty to chew on during the reception. (Read the film's synopsis here: <http://silverliningsplaybookmovie.com/>)

Producer Jonathan Gordon and Editor Jay Cassidy were on hand after the film for a Q&A moderated by Mark Olsen from The Los Angeles Times.

Renwood Winery made its debut during the reception, where two of the newly released wines were poured: the 2011 Viognier and 2010 Musician's Zinfandel. The wines fueled lively conversations among attendees.

While many conversations centered around the cinematography and Oscar potential of *Silver Linings Playbook*, the attention often shifted to the wines.

"I happened to be near the bar during one of the receptions and heard one of the forum attendees raving about the Zinfandel," said Film Independent Co-President Josh Welsh in an email. "To be honest, I normally have a beer at our events, but because he was going on about it, I got the (Musician's) Zinfandel. He was right to rave!"

The Musician's Zinfandel has a fruit forward entry, followed by a holiday spice on the mid-palette and a black peppercorn finish. It was bottled in March and released in September when Renwood's new tasting room was unveiled.

"The wine was a great pairing with the whole forum," Welsh added. "It's a sophisticated but young crowd who attend the Forum, and the Renwood (Zinfandel) was really a good fit."

Felisha Marye, a Project Involve fellow, said she was a big fan of the Musician's. Before she tried it, she said that Zinfandel was her favorite wine.

When she came back for seconds, Marye added, "The Musician's may be the best Zinfandel I've ever had."

Project Involve is a fellowship program that aims to increase diversity in the film industry. Underrepresented filmmakers are chosen as fellows and paired with mentors in the film industry and invited to attend educational seminars and workshops.

The 2011 Viognier, with its tropical notes of coconut and pineapple, was also a hit on opening night.

Saturday featured a keynote speech by Director John Singleton (*Four Brothers*, *Boyz n the Hood*) as well as film panels and a networking lunch. The weekend wrapped up Sunday with the Movie Hackathon awards, where the top three film apps produced during the forum were recognized. The Hackathon kicked off at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 19, and tech developers spent the next 41 hours coding. The winners were awarded cash prizes.

Bozzi said she thought the 2012 Film Independent Forum was very successful. "I think it's the best one we have done so far," she said.

We at Renwood are very grateful to have been a part of the forum and we are so pleased that the reception of the wines was a success.

Welsh summed it up nicely when he said, "The Renwood (Musician's) Zinfandel was fantastic! It was full-bodied, a little spicy, and perfect for a fall evening."