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United Distributors' Pinnacle Wine Tasting . . .

By Christine Hoard

The Pinnacle Portfolio, a division of United Distributors, held their annual trade tasting at the Atlanta History Center. "It's a great tasting of boutique, high-style wines and getting together with people," commented Michael Venezia, United's Director of Wine Education. Wines from more than 80 wineries were available for sampling. Nearly all domestic and imported grape-growing appellations were represented, including burgeoning wine regions from countries like Austria, Greece and New Zealand.

1. United's Scott Heath pours Iron Horse Blanc de Blanc from Green Valley. 2. Jennifer McCracken, United, represents Chardonnay and Pinot Noir from Hanzell Vineyards in Sonoma Valley. 3. Van Duzar Estate Pinot Noir and Pinot Gris from Willamette, Oregon, are offered by Erik Schmitt, United.



4. United on-premise sales representatives Jason Hawkins and John Nichols present Skouras from Peloponnese, Greece. 5. Tony Molinari, United, offers Luna Vineyards, Arnold Palmer and Austradia's Loyer Cde. 6. Jeff Flood, Folio Fine Wine Partners, and Laurenz Maria Moser, Laurenz Austria.

7. Aurelio Cabestrero, marketing manager at Grapes Of Spain, promotes wines from Abadal. 8. Pinnacle sales manager Jeff Burch presents Qupe and Au Bon Climat, both from Santa Barbara County. 9. George Choatas and Harry Petrides pour Sacred Hill, New Zealand, and Rungquist, Amador County.



10. Tasos Sengos, national sales manager, Athenae Importers & Distributors, whose Greek wines include Hatzimitchalis, Gaia and Spiropoulos. 11. Emuechi Vineyards in Sonoma's Russian River is represented by United's Billy Stogner. 12. Mark Rodriguez, Southeast region sales manager at Jackson Wine Estates International, has French imports Château Vignot, Lassegue and Tenuta di Arceno.