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JASPER RESTAURANT NAMED HOME TO BAMA'S BEST BURGER

MONTGOMERY, AL— Black Rock Bistro in Jasper, Ala. has been named the winner of the 2017 Bama's Best Burger contest with its dish, the Alabama Burger.

A half-pound beef patty topped with house-made pimento cheese and a fried green tomato, the Bama's Best Burger winner earns its name as it represents some of Alabama's finest Southern flavors.

The Bama's Best Burger contest began July 31 on the <u>Alabama Cattlemen's Association</u> <u>Facebook page</u> with a <u>nominations round</u> that boasted a reach of over 224,000 Alabamians and garnered over 1,000 burger nominees. Two of the most-nominated burgers from each of contest's four regions (north, central, south and gulf) moved on to compete in the <u>Elite 8</u> <u>Facebook photo challenge</u> where fans "reacted" to their favorite restaurant's burger photo.

The Elite 8 competitors were Rattlesnake Saloon's "The Duke Burger," Tuscumbia; Big Chief Drive In's "Chuck Burger," Glencoe; Black Rock Bistro's "Alabama Burger," Jasper; Deano Grill's "Deano Burger," Jacksonville; Hamburger King's "Deluxe Cheeseburger," Montgomery; Sheila C's Burger Barn's "Cheeseburger," Auburn; Fish River Grill's "Swamp Burger," Foley; and Our Place Diner's "Bacon, Egg & Cheese Burger," Ozark.

After a week of flaming Facebook competition reaching over 147,000 Facebook users across the state, the restaurant from each of the four regions with the most "reactions" was named a Fiery 4 finalist. Rattlesnake Saloon, Hamburger King and Our Place Diner joined Black Rock Bistro in the final round.

Finalist restaurants were then visited anonymously by a panel of industry judges secretly taste testing the burgers throughout the month of September.

Black Rock Bistro owners will receive a plaque presentation and media conference from the Alabama Cattlemen's Association, bragging rights for one year and an influx of customers looking to try Alabama's best burger. The announcement of the winning burger acts as the kickoff of October Beef Month in Alabama.

The Bama's Best Burger contest is sponsored by the Alabama Cattlemen's Association and the Alabama Beef Checkoff. For questions regarding the contest or the winner, contact Kayla Greer at kgreer@bamabeef.org or (334) 265-1867. For quotes, contact owner Lindsey Kilgore at (205) 567-6155 or email her at kgblackrock@aol.com.

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The Alabama Cattlemen's Association is a service based non-profit organization founded in 1944 and headquartered on Capitol Hill in Montgomery. Producer and member driven, the ACA's mission is to enhance the business climate of the state's beef cattle industry, promoting a positive image while educating consumers that beef is a safe, wholesome, nutritious and convenient food product. The Association has county chapters in all 67 counties and represents 11,500 members statewide.