

Wine Competitions Resource Guide

American Wine Society Commercial Wine Competition

SPONSOR: The American Wine Society
CONTACT: Matt Kristofik, 412-578-7011 or 724-339-4234, Kristofik-aws-cwc@worldnet.att.net, www.americanwinesociety.com
DATE: Mid-Nov, Greenwich, CT (est. 1985)
REQUIREMENTS: Open to all wineries, distributors and importers. Wineries limited to 24 entries. Wine submission deadline is early Oct.
JUDGING: American Wine Society-certified judges and industry professionals

Atlanta International Wine Summit

SPONSOR: Atlanta International Wine Summit
CONTACT: Pat Driscoll, 800-868-2929 x 00, www.winesummit.homestead.com
DATE: Early July, Atlanta, GA (est.1979)
REQUIREMENTS: Open to all wine-producing areas worldwide. No limit to number of entries. Entry form and wine submission deadline is early June.
JUDGING: Panels are made up of wine industry professionals and consumer representation

California State Fair Wine Competition

SPONSOR: Albertson's (organized/governed by the California State Fair)
CONTACT: Kem Pence, 916-263-3159, www.bigfun.org
DATE: End of June, Sacramento, CA (est. 1854)
REQUIREMENTS: Entries must be from California and part of a lot of identical wine of at least 480 gallons. Wine submission deadline is end of May.
JUDGING: Judges must take a qualifying exam, and include industry representatives, writers, enologists, winemakers, restaurateurs, sommeliers and educators. Wines are entered and judged in 10 geographical groupings and on a regional basis.

California Zinfandel Championship Competition

SPONSOR: Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce
CONTACT: Monica Culcasi, 925-432-7301, chamber@pittsburg.org, www.pittsburg.org
DATE: Early September, Pittsburg Seafood Festival, Pittsburg, CA (est. 1997)
REQUIREMENTS: Return a completed entry form for each Zinfandel wine entered (multiple entries are allowed). The competition is open to all wineries. Must submit 2 bottles of wine per entry. Submission deadline is end of June.
JUDGING: American Wine Society-certified judges and Industry professionals

Critics Challenge International Wine Competition

SPONSOR: Whitley On Wine, the Westgate Hotel, SignOnSanDiego Gourmet Club, Passionfish
CONTACT: 619-804-0371, criticschallenge@aol.com, www.criticschallenge.com
DATE: Late May, The Westgate Hotel, San Diego, CA
REQUIREMENTS: Entries open to all wines, brandy, eau de vie, and grappa from around the world.
JUDGING: Mary Ewing-Mulligan, MW and Robert Whitley

Dallas Morning News World Wine Competition

SPONSOR: The Dallas Morning News
CONTACT: Rebecca Murphy, 214-319-7000, rmurphy@dallaswinecomp.com, www.dallaswinecompetition.com
DATE: Late February, Fairmont Hotel, Dallas, TX (est. 1984)
REQUIREMENTS: Wine produced anywhere in the world may be entered. Limit 3 wines per category. The wine submission deadline is mid-Feb.
JUDGING: 48 judges, including wine writers, retailers, restaurateurs and wine educators

Finger Lakes International Wine Competition

SPONSOR: Camp Good Days and Special Times
 (a not-for-profit 501 corporation providing for children with cancer)
CONTACT: David G. Male, 716-634-2456, vinehous@aol.com
DATE: Late March, Crown Royal Hotel, Rochester, NY (est. 2001)
REQUIREMENTS: Entries include varietals, blends and generic wines from any grape or fruit type; also sparkling, dessert, fortified and fruit wines. Distilled products include brandy, grappa and eau de vie. Fruit-flavored wines must be specifically identified as flavored. Wine submission deadline is mid-March.
JUDGING: A diverse, internationally certified and highly skilled group of judges

Florida State Fair Wine & Grape Juice Competition

SPONSOR: Florida State Fair and the Florida Grape Growers Association
CONTACT: Joyce Covington, 813-627-4216, www.floridastatefair.com
DATE: Early Feb, Tampa, FL (est. 1988)
REQUIREMENTS: Wine produced anywhere in the world may be entered. Must be currently available in the commercial market. Entry forms must be submitted by mid-Dec; wine submission deadline is mid-Jan.
JUDGING: There are 15 qualified judges from all across the U.S.

Grand Harvest Awards

SPONSOR: Vineyard and Winery Management Magazine
CONTACT: Robert Merletti, 707-836-6820, www.vwm-online.com
DATE: Mid-Feb, Fountain Grove Inn, Santa Rosa, CA (est. 1990)
REQUIREMENTS: Wines made from grapes of any North American viticultural area are eligible, if commercially available. Wine submission deadline is due in early January.
JUDGING: Judges are experienced wine industry professionals. Some judges familiar with terroir characteristics of each participating region are used to judge wines of that region.

Indiana State Fair International Wine Competition

SPONSOR: Indiana State Fair
CONTACT: Ellen Butz, 765-494-6704, embutz@purdue.edu, www.in.gov/iwc
DATE: Late July, Indianapolis, IN (est. 1992)
REQUIREMENTS: Three bottles for commercial wineries, two bottles for amateur winemakers. Wine submission deadline is in mid-July.
JUDGING: 70 judges will be employed, including winemakers, wine writers, wine marketers, chefs and knowledgeable consumers from around the world.

International Eastern Wine Competition

SPONSOR: Vineyard and Winery Management Magazine
CONTACT: Donna Lodge, 800-535-5670 x21 or 607-535-2998, www.vwm-online.com
DATE: Late May, Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY (est. 1976)
REQUIREMENTS: Wines must be commercially available in North America. Wine submission deadline is late April.
JUDGING: Judges are trade professionals, including winemakers, researchers, retailers, restaurateurs and wine media.

Intervin U.S./Canadian International Wine Competition

SPONSOR: InterVin
CONTACT: Dayle Sharp, 416-429-6523, Dayle.Sharp@intervin.com, www.intervin.com
DATE: May/June, Toronto, Canada (est. 1986)
REQUIREMENTS: Any commercial wine produced worldwide, as well as brandy, grappa and fruit wines. There is no limit on number of entries. Wineries must ship three bottles minimum of each label. Wine submission deadline is the end of May.
JUDGING: The number of judges depends on the number of entries received. Judges must pass InterVin's stringent taste test.

Jerry D. Mead's New World International Wine Competition

SPONSOR: Jerry D Mead, founder, New World International Wine Competition
CONTACT: Eileen Tillery, 909-989-4733, nwiwc@yahoo.com, www.nwiwc.com
DATE: End of Feb, Ontario, Canada (est. 1985)
REQUIREMENTS: Accepts all wines and grape distillates from the U.S., Australia, Mexico, New Zealand, Canada, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, South Africa and any other wine-producing nations of the New World. No limit on the number of entries. Wine submission deadline is mid-Jan.
JUDGING: Judges include the wine media, vintners, trade representatives, trained consumers and academia.

Long Beach Grand Cru Wine Competition

SPONSOR: Long Beach Office of the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles
CONTACT: Ludmila Montoya, 213-640-3894, www.longbeachgrandcru.com
DATE: Mid-late July, Long Beach, CA (est. 1995)
REQUIREMENTS: Open to all countries. One entry is six bottles, not less than 750 ml. If 350 ml, submit 12 bottles. Entry forms may be submitted between April 1 and June 10.
JUDGING: Dan Berger and a steering committee will choose judges from a pool of winemakers, restaurateurs, wine store representatives, wine writers and wine connoisseurs.

Los Angeles County Fair Competition Wine of the Americas

SPONSOR: Los Angeles County Fair
CONTACT: Mary Ellen Cole, 909-865-4231, www.lacountyfair.com/wine2006
DATE: Mid-May, Pomona, CA (est. 1935)
REQUIREMENTS: The competition is open to wine made anywhere in the world. There are two competitions: Wines of the Americas, and the Limited Production competition. Wine submission deadline is early April.
JUDGING: 80 judges from a variety of backgrounds

Monterey International Wine Competition

SPONSOR: Salinas Valley Fair
CONTACT: 831-385-3243, whitonwine@aol.com, www.salinasvalleyfair.com
DATE: March, Salinas Valley Fairgrounds, King City, CA (est. 1994)
REQUIREMENTS: Open to all wine-producing areas worldwide. No limit to the number of entries. Wine submission deadline is late Feb.
JUDGING: Open to all wine-producing areas worldwide. No limit to the number of entries.

Orange County Fair Commercial Wine Competition

SPONSOR: The Orange County Wine Society and the Orange County Fair Board
CONTACT: Larry Graham, 714-708-1636, www.ocws.org
DATE: Late May, Hilton Hotel in Costa Mesa, CA (est. 1977)
REQUIREMENTS: Any California wine that is commercially available in Orange County. Grapes must be grown in California. Entry forms must be submitted at the beginning of May. Wine submission deadline is early May.
JUDGING: Judges are either winemakers or winery principals. Judging is performed double-blind.

Pacific Rim International Wine Competition

SPONSOR: National Orange Show
CONTACT: James Crum, 909-888-6788 ext. 415, www.nationalorangeshow.com
DATE: Late April, National Orange Show, San Bernardino, CA (est. 1984)
REQUIREMENTS: Wine must be from the Pacific Rim. All wines must be commercially available; four bottles of each variety must be submitted. Entry and wine submission deadline is late March.
JUDGING: The judging panel contains 30 judges from three categories, including principal winemakers, and individuals associated with the wine trade.

Press Democrat's North of the Gate Wine Competition

SPONSOR: The Press Democrat Newspaper, Sponsor, Sonoma-Marin Fair
CONTACT: Ralph Swagler, 707-664-0510, WineJudge@aol.com, www.sonoma-marinfair.org
DATE: Late April, Sonoma-Marin Fairgrounds, Petaluma, CA (est. 2001)
REQUIREMENTS: Any commercially available wine made from grapes grown in Sonoma, Napa, Mendocino, Marin, Lake or Solano counties. Wine submission deadline is early April.
JUDGING: Four Judging panels consist of 5 judges each, including wine buyers, winemakers, wine writers and wine educators. All judging is blind.

Riverside International Wine Competition

SPONSOR: The Riverside International Wine Competition Corporation
CONTACT: Dan Berger or Julainn Savage, 707-528-9466, dan@riversidewinecompetition.com, riversidewinecompetition.com
DATE: Early May, Riverside Community Hospital Health Education Center, Riverside, CA (est. 1981)
REQUIREMENTS: Any bonded winery may enter. No limit to the number of entries. Wine submission deadline is early April.
JUDGING: There are 44 judges who are winery owners, wine writers, winemakers and other industry representatives.

San Diego International Wine Competition

SPONSOR: The Social Service Auxiliary of San Diego
CONTACT: 619-804-0371, sdnwc@aol.com, www.sdnwc.com
DATE: April, San Diego, CA (est. 1983)
REQUIREMENTS: Any U.S. or international bonded winery may enter. No limit to the number of entries. If your wine wins a medal, you must donate one case of that wine to the Wine & Roses Charity Tasting. Wine submission deadline is late Feb.
JUDGING: Chief Judge, David Lake, MW

San Francisco Bay Wine Competition

SPONSOR: Riedel Crystal of America, Bremner Biscuit Company
CONTACT: Diane Long, 925-426-7611, exhibits@alamedacountyfair.com, www.alamedacountyfair.com
DATE: Early May, Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton, CA (est. 1981)
REQUIREMENTS: Commercially bonded wineries in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Solano counties. Minimum 50 cases of any wines entered must be available for sale at the time of the competition. Entry forms due mid-April; wine submission deadline early May.
JUDGING: Judging panel includes three experienced and qualified judges chosen from the wine industry.

San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition

SPONSOR: San Francisco Chronicle, Cloverdale Citrus Fair
CONTACT: Bob Fraser, 707-527-4648, rfraser@santarosa.edu, www.winejudging.com
DATE: Late Jan, Cloverdale Citrus Fairgrounds, Cloverdale, CA (est. 1983)
REQUIREMENTS: Accept wines from any bonded winery from California. Must have a minimum of 50 cases on hand for public 30 days from entry deadline. Wine submission deadline is early Jan.
JUDGING: Judging panel of five include representatives from trade, education, media, winemakers and food/tour. Judging is blind.

San Francisco International Wine Competition

SPONSOR: San Francisco International Wine Competition
CONTACT: Carol Seibert, 415-345-9000, info@sfwinecomp.com, www.sfwinecomp.com
DATE: Mid-June, Mandarin Oriental, San Francisco, CA (est. 1990)
REQUIREMENTS: Must be a U.S. varietal or a French-American hybrid wine. Also included, non-alcoholic wine, fruit wine, brandy, grappa, eau-de-vie, cognac, vermouth, sherry, port and sake. Submission deadline is late May.
JUDGING: 40 judges from around the world, representing every major wine-buying market. Judges are usually wine buyers or wine writers. (Winemakers and consumers may not serve as judges.)

West Coast Wine Competition

SPONSOR: Vineyard and Winery Management magazine
CONTACT: Robert Merletti, 707-836-6820, www.vwm-online.com
DATE: Mid-April, Fountain Grove Inn, Santa Rosa, CA (est. 1982)
REQUIREMENTS: Competition is open to commercially available wines from California, Baja, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, and British Columbia in Canada. Entry is due in mid-March; wines due by late March.
JUDGING: Judges are wine industry professionals and experienced wine judges with special knowledge of West Coast wines.

Winefest

SPONSOR: Hilton Head Hospitality Association
CONTACT: 843-686-4944, (Fax: 843-686-4169), www.hiltonheadhospitalityassociation.com
DATE: Early Feb, Hilton Head Island, SC (est. 1985)
REQUIREMENTS: Any winery may enter. Three bottles of each label required. Wine submission deadline is mid-Jan.
JUDGING: Judging is conducted blind. Wines ranked using 20-point Davis Rating Scale. All judges must be American Wine Society-certified.