## Wine Competitions Resource Guide

### American Wine Society Commercial Wine Competition
- **Location:** The American Wine Society
- **Contact:** Matt Kristofik, 412-576-7011 or 724-339-4234, kristofik-aws-awc@worldnet.att.net, www.americanwinesociety.com
- **Date:** Late March, Crown Royal Hotel, Rochester, NY (est. 1985)
- **Requirements:** Open to all wineries, distributors and importers. Wineries limited to 24 entries.
- **Judging:** American Wine Society-certified judges and industry professionals

### Atlanta International Wine Summit
- **Location:** Atlanta International Wine Summit
- **Contact:** Pat Driscoll, 800-468-2929 x 00, www.winesummit.homestead.com
- **Date:** Early July, Atlanta, GA (est. 1997)
- **Requirements:** Open to all wine-producing areas worldwide. No limit to number of entries.
- **Judging:** Panels are made up of wine industry professionals and consumer representation

### California State Fair Wine Competition
- **Location:** Albertson's (organized/governed by the California State Fair)
- **Contact:** Ken Pence, 916-263-3159, bigbufn.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.
- **Judging:** American Wine Society-certified judges and Industry professionals

### California Zinfandel Championship Competition
- **Location:** Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce
- **Contact:** Monica Culcasi, 925-432-7301, chamber@pittsburg.org, www.pittsburg.org
- **Date:** Early September, Pittsburg Seaford 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.
- **Judging:** Judges must take a qualifying exam, and include industry representatives, writers, enologists, winemakers, restaurateurs, sommeliers and educators. Wines are entered and judged in geographical groupings and on a regional basis.

### Critics Challenge International Wine Competition
- **Location:** Whitley Ch Wine, the Westgate Hotel, SignOnSanDiego Gourmet Club, Passionfish
- **Contact:** 619-804-0371, criticschallenge@cox.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:** There are 15 qualified judges from all across the U.S.

### Dallas Morning News World Wine Competition
- **Location:** The Dallas Morning News
- **Contact:** Rebecca Murphy, 214-319-7001, murphy@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.
- **Judging:** 48 judges, including wine writers, retailers, restaurateurs and wine educators

### Finger Lakes International Wine Competition
- **Location:** Camp Good Days and Special Times
  - A not-for-profit 501 corporation providing for children with cancer
- **Contact:** David G. Mafo, 716-634-2456, vinemead@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
- **Location:** Florida State Fair and the Florida Grape Growers Association
- **Contact:** Joyce Covington, 813-647-4216, 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
- **Location:** Vineyard and Winery Management Magazine
- **Contact:** Robert Marletti, 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
- **Location:** Indiana State Fair
- **Contact:** Ellen Butt, 765-494-6704, embutt@purdual.edu, www.in.gov/wic
- **Date:** Late July, Indianapolis, IN (est. 1992)
- **Requirements:** Wines must be commercially available in North America. Wine submission deadline is late April.
- **Judging:** 70 judges will be employed, including winemakers, wine writers, wine marketers, chefs and knowledgeable consumers from around the world.

### International Eastern Wine Competition
- **Location:** 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 the U.S.
- **Judging:** Judges are trade professionals, including winemakers, researchers, retailers, restaurateurs and wine media.

### Intervin U.S./Canadian International Wine Competition
- **Location:** 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.
- **Judging:** 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
- **Location:** Jerry D Mead, founder, New World International Wine Competition
- **Contact:** Eileen Tillory, 909-899-4733, meadew@yahoo.com, www.nwic.com
- **Date:** End of Feb, Ontario, Canada (est. 1995)
- **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, vineyards, trade representatives, trained consumers and academia.
There are 44 judges who are winery owners, wine writers, winemakers and other industry representatives. Any commercially available wine made from grapes grown in Sonoma, Napa, Mendocino, Marin, Lake or Solano counties. Wine submission deadline is early April.

JUDGING:
Chief Judge, David Lake, MW

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.

DATE:
April, San Diego, CA (est. 1983)

CONTACT:
619-804-0371, sdnwc@aol.com, www.sdnwc.com

SPONSOR:
Riedel Crystal of America, Bremser Biscuit Company

San Diego International Wine Competition

San Francisco Bay Wine Competition

JUDGING:
Judging panel of five include representatives from trade, education, media, winemakers and food/beer. Judging is blind.

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.

DATE:
Late Jan, Cloverdale Citrus Fairgrounds, Cloverdale, CA (est. 1983)

CONTACT:
Robert Merletti, 707-836-6820, www.vwm-online.com

SPONSOR:
Vineyard and Winery Management magazine

San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition

San Francisco International Wine Competition

JUDGING:
Four judging panels consist of 5 judges each, including wine buyers, winemakers, wine writers and wine connoisseurs.

REQUIREMENTS:
Any winery may enter. No limit to the number of entries. Wine submission deadline is early April.

DATE:
April, San Diego, CA (est. 1983)

CONTACT:
619-804-0371, sdnwc@aol.com, www.sdnwc.com

SPONSOR:
The Press Democrat Newspaper, Sponsor, Sonoma-Marin Fair

Press Democrat’s North of the Gate Wine Competition

West Coast Wine Competition

JUDGING:
Judging is conducted blind. Wines ranked using the 20-point Davis Rating Scale.

REQUIREMENTS:
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.

DATE:
Mid-April, Fountain Grove Inn, Santa Rosa, CA (est. 1982)

CONTACT:
Carol Seibert, 415-345-9000, info@sfwinecomp.com, www.sfwinecomp.com

SPONSOR:
San Francisco Chronicle, Cloverdale Citrus Fair

San Francisco International Wine Competition

Winemakers and consumers may not serve as judges.)

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.

DATE:
Mid-May, Pomona, CA (est. 1935)

CONTACT:
843-686-4944, (Fax: 843-686-4169), www.hiltonheadhospitalityassociation.com

SPONSOR:
Hilton Head Hospitality Association

Hilton Head International Wine Competition

Winefest

JUDGING:
Judging panel contains 30 judges from three categories, including principal winemakers, restaurateurs, wine store representatives, wine writers and wine connoisseurs.

REQUIREMENTS:
Any winery may enter. No limit to the number of entries. Wine submission deadline is early May.

DATE:
March, Salinas Valley Fairgrounds, King City, CA (est. 1994)

CONTACT:
831-385-3243, whitonwine@aol.com, www.salinasvalleyfair.com

SPONSOR:
The National Orange Show

Orange County Fair Commercial Wine Competition

West Coast Wine Competition

JUDGING:
Chief Judge, David Lake, MW

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.

DATE:
Mid-late July, Long Beach, CA (est. 1995)

CONTACT:
909-888-6788 ext. 415, www.nationalorangeshow.com

SPONSOR:
National Orange Show

Long Beach Grand Cru Wine Competition

JUDGING:
All judges must be American Wine Society-certified.

REQUIREMENTS:
Wine must be from the Pacific Rim. All wines must be commercially available; four bottles of each variety may be submitted. Entry and wine submission deadline is early April.

DATE:
Late Jan, Cloverdale Citrus Fairgrounds, Cloverdale, CA (est. 1983)

CONTACT:
Robert Merletti, 707-836-6820, www.vwm-online.com

SPONSOR:
Vineyard and Winery Management magazine

San Francisco Bay Wine Competition

JUDGING:
Judging panel of five include representatives from trade, education, media, winemakers and food/beer. Judging is blind.

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.

DATE:
Mid-June, Mandarin Oriental, San Francisco, CA (est. 1990)

CONTACT:
415-345-9000, info@sfwinecomp.com, www.sfwinecomp.com

SPONSOR:
San Francisco Chronicle, Cloverdale Citrus Fair

San Francisco International Wine Competition

Winemakers and consumers may not serve as judges.)

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.

DATE:
Late May, Hilton Hotel in Costa Mesa, CA (est. 1977)

CONTACT:
843-686-4944, (Fax: 843-686-4169), www.hiltonheadhospitalityassociation.com

SPONSOR:
Hilton Head Hospitality Association

Hilton Head International Wine Competition

Winefest

JUDGING:
Chief Judge, David Lake, MW

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.

DATE:
Mid-late July, Long Beach, CA (est. 1995)

CONTACT:
909-888-6788 ext. 415, www.nationalorangeshow.com

SPONSOR:
National Orange Show

Long Beach Grand Cru Wine Competition

JUDGING:
All judges must be American Wine Society-certified.

REQUIREMENTS:
Wine must be from the Pacific Rim. All wines must be commercially available; four bottles of each variety may be submitted. Entry and wine submission deadline is early April.

DATE:
Late Jan, Cloverdale Citrus Fairgrounds, Cloverdale, CA (est. 1983)

CONTACT:
Robert Merletti, 707-836-6820, www.vwm-online.com

SPONSOR:
Vineyard and Winery Management magazine

San Francisco Bay Wine Competition

JUDGING:
Judging panel of five include representatives from trade, education, media, winemakers and food/beer. Judging is blind.

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.

DATE:
Mid-June, Mandarin Oriental, San Francisco, CA (est. 1990)

CONTACT:
415-345-9000, info@sfwinecomp.com, www.sfwinecomp.com

SPONSOR:
San Francisco Chronicle, Cloverdale Citrus Fair

San Francisco International Wine Competition