

Welcome

to the 15th annual North of the Gate Wine Competition!

The objectives of the North of the Gate Wine Competition are:

- To offer a venue for wine from the eligible counties to be judged.
- To promote agriculture by recognizing the wine industry as a vital agricultural component of the region.
- To increase exposure of wineries to the wine consumer with over 60,000 people who visit the annual Sonoma-Marin Fair annually.
- To offer meaningful competition between winemakers to encourage high quality practices throughout the winemaking industry.

The benefits of participation are many and provide exposure for your winery.

- Exposure to professional judges which may include members representing trade, education, media, and retail.
- Medal Winners are featured during the fair.
- Best of Show, Sweepstakes, Best of Class, Double Gold, and Gold Medal wines are featured in the Wine Garden during fair.
- Award winning wines will be printed in an award booklet offered to the public in the Wine Garden and at the wine display during the 2015 Fair.
- Media releases announcing winners.

RULES

1. **Eligibility:** commercial wines that are made in the counties of: Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Sierra, Solano, Sonoma, Yolo and Yuba. Any bottled wine labeled with the above counties as their main source of grapes, even if bottled out of the area, is eligible for entry.
2. A copy of the completed entry form with the fees must be received at the Sonoma-Marin Fairgrounds by **March 6, 2015**.
3. All wines must be received at the Sonoma-Marin Fairgrounds at 175 Fairgrounds Drive in Petaluma between **March 9–13, 2015**. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.
4. All Best of Show, Sweepstakes, Best of Class, and Double Gold winning winery brands are required to pour or send one case of the winning wine (*sent wine becomes the property of the Sonoma-Marin Fair and will not be returned*) to be poured at the wine garden at the

2015 Sonoma-Marin Fair, additional information to follow. Every attempt will be made to work with the winery for desired pouring schedule. Wineries must comply with this requirement to receive recognition for their award. Gold winning wines may have an opportunity to pour their winning wine at the wine garden during the 2015 Sonoma-Marin Fair. Wine to be provided by winery at their expense.

ENTRY INSTRUCTIONS

5. **FORMS AND FEES:** There is a **\$55** per entry fee. The entry fee and forms need to be sent to Sonoma-Marin Fair at 175 Fairgrounds Drive, Petaluma, CA 94952 or **enter online** at www.enofileonline.com. Entry deadline is **March 6, 2015**.
6. **Wines:** Send six (6) 750 ml bottles per entry and a copy of the entry form to the Sonoma-Marin Fairgrounds, 175 Fairgrounds Drive, Petaluma, CA 94952. Wines are to be delivered to the Administration Building between the dates of **March 9–13, 2015**. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. No wine will be accepted for which carrier charges have not been prepaid. All wines become the property of the Sonoma-Marin Fair.

ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS

7. There is no limit to the number of entries per winery.
8. There is no limit to the number of vintages of the same variety a winery may enter.
9. The same wine (although marketed under a different label) may not be entered in more than one category. However, a winery may submit multiple entries in the same category.
10. Wines entered must be available for commercial sale prior to the start of judging, **March 19, 2015**.

JUDGING OF WINES & AWARDS

11. Blind Judging will be done with a panel of judges.
12. The judges decision is final.
13. The competition reserves the right to re-classify wine entries.
14. The competition is not responsible for errors in entries.
15. Judges will award **Double Gold, Gold, Silver** and **Bronze** awards as well as **Best of Class, Sweepstakes: Red, Blush/Rose, Sparkling, White, Sweet and Fortified; Best of County and Winemaker of the Competition Awards.** Sweepstakes, Best of County and Winemaker of the Competition will receive plaques upon request. Bottle medallions will be awarded to Double Gold, Gold and Silver wines. **Best of Show** is awarded to one wine recognized to possess special characteristics of the highest quality overall. Plaque will be awarded.
16. Following the judging, wineries will be notified of any awards won. All medal award-winning wineries required for the public tasting, mentioned on #4 of the rules, will

QUESTIONS

For specific entry questions contact: Dr. Valery Uhl, Wine Competition Director at 510-421-7808

For delivery questions or forms contact the Sonoma-Marin Fairgrounds staff at 707-283-3247 or email info@sonoma-marinfair.org

Sarah Cummings, *Chief Executive Officer* ♦ Valery Uhl, *Wine Competition Director*

CATEGORIES FOR JUDGING

WHITE WINES

<u>Class</u>	<u>Classification</u>
10	Flavored Sparkling
20	Brut or Natural Sparkling, Blanc de Blanc
40	Blanc De Noir, Rosé Sparkling
60	Sauvignon Blanc or Fume Blanc
80	Chardonnay - No Oak
100	Chardonnay
120	Gewurztraminer
140	Riesling
160	Viognier
180	Pinot Grigio/Pinot Gris
200	Late Harvest White with RS over 2.0
240	All Other Whites (White Blends/Chenin Blanc/Semillon)
260	Fortified White Wine (Port)

BLUSH WINES

<u>Class</u>	<u>Classification</u>
300	White Zinfandel/ White Merlot/ Blush
320	Rosé

RED WINES

<u>Class</u>	<u>Classification</u>
400	Pinot Noir
460	Merlot

Red Wines Continued

<u>Class</u>	<u>Classification</u>
480	Zinfandel - up to \$29.99
490	Zinfandel - \$30.00 and over
500	Zinfandel - greater than 14.5% alcohol
510	Primitivo
520	Sangiovese
540	Barbera
560	Syrah/Shiraz
580	Petite Sirah
600	Cabernet Sauvignon - up to \$34.99
620	Cabernet Sauvignon - \$35.00 to \$74.99
630	Cabernet Sauvignon - \$75.00 and over
640	Cabernet Sauvignon - 2008 Vintage or older
650	Bordeaux - Single Varietals (Malbec/Petite Verdot)
660	Cabernet Franc
680	Italian—Single Varietals (Charbono, Dolcetto, Nebbiolo)
700	Spanish - Single Varietals (Tempranillo)
720	Rhone - Single Varietals (Mourvedre, Carignane)
740	Grenache
760	Red Meritage / Bordeaux Blends
770	All Other Red Wines including Red Blends
780	Fortified Wine (Port, Sherry, Madeira)
800	Late Harvest Red with RS over 2.0
820	Distilled Wine (Brandy, Grappa)

Do you use ENOFILE ? Do you want to ENTER ONLINE?

Enter online today at [enofileonline.com](http://www.enofileonline.com) or follow the direct link to

North of the Gate competition at <http://www.enofileonline.com/landing.aspx?competitionID=219>

NORTH OF THE GATE WINE COMPETITION



Class	Vintage Date	Variety	Appellation	Description or Vineyard Designate	Residual Sugar %	Retail Price
1.						
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						
6.						
7.						
8.						
9.						
10.						

Winery:	Winemaker:	
Parent Co. if applicable	City:	Zip:
Mailing Address:	City:	Zip:
Location Address:	Fax Number:	
Contact Name:	Contact Email:	
Contact Phone Number:	Number of Wines Entered:	Total Entry Fees: \$
Winery Web Site Address:		

Please detach and return entry form with payment payable to : Sonoma-Marín Fair
 Mail Entry Form and Fee of \$55 per entry to: North of the Gate Wine Competition c/o Sonoma-Marín Fair - 175 Fairgrounds Drive, Petaluma, CA 94952
 Phone: 707-283-3247 Fax: 707-283-3250 Email: info@sonoma-marínfair.org Credit Card payments accepted - contact 707-283-3247 for details
 See Entry Rules for complete competition rules - Entry Form Deadline: March 6, 2015 - Entered Wines delivered between March 9-13, 2015
The North of the Gate Wine Competition is held in conjunction with the Sonoma-Marín Fair. Judging is closed to the public.