

# Welcome

to the 16th 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-Marín 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 invaluable exposure for your winery.

- Exposure to professional judges representing trade, education, media, and/or retail.
- Medal Winners are featured in a display during the fair.
- Best of Show, Sweepstakes, Best of County, Best of Class, Double Gold, and Gold Medal wines are featured in the Fair Wine Garden.
- Award winning wines will be printed in an award booklet offered to the public in the Wine Garden and the Fair wine display.
- 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-Marín Fairgrounds by **February 26, 2016**.
3. All wines must be received at the Sonoma-Marín Fairgrounds at 175 Fairgrounds Drive in Petaluma between **February 29 — March 4, 2016**. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.
4. All Best of Show, Sweepstakes, Best of County, 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-Marín Fair and will not be returned*) to be poured at the wine garden at the 2016 Sonoma-Marín Fair, Gold Medal Wines are encouraged to participate; additional information to follow. Wineries must comply with this requirement to receive recognition for their award. Wine to be provided by winery at their expense.

### ENTRY INSTRUCTIONS

5. **FORMS AND FEES:** There is a **\$60** per entry fee. The entry fee and forms need to be sent to Sonoma-Marín Fair at 175 Fairgrounds Drive, Petaluma, CA 94952 or **enter online** at [www.enofileonline.com](http://www.enofileonline.com). Entry deadline is February 26, 2016.
6. **Wines:** Send six (6) 750 ml bottles per entry and a copy of the entry form to the Sonoma-Marín Fairgrounds, 175 Fairgrounds Drive, Petaluma, CA 94952. Wines are to be delivered to the Administration Building between the dates of **February 29 — March 4, 2016**. 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-Marín Fair. Surplus bottles will be used in the North of the Gate Fair display and poured in the Wine Garden.

### 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 10, 2016**.

### JUDGING OF WINES

11. Wines will be evaluated and scored blind by a panel of qualified judges; the judges' decision is final.
12. The competition reserves the right to re-classify wine entries.
13. The competition is not responsible for errors in entries.

### AWARDS

14. Judges will award **Double Gold, Gold, Silver** and **Bronze** awards as well as **Best of Show, Sweepstakes: Best Red, Blush/Rose, Sparkling, White, Sweet and Fortified; Best of Class, Best of County and Winemaker of the Competition Awards**. Best of Show and Winemaker of the Competition will receive plaques. Certificates Will be awarded to Sweepstakes: Best Red, Blush/Rose, Sparkling, White, Sweet and Fortified; Best of Class, Best of County. Bottle medallions will be awarded to Double Gold, Gold wines; Silver wines upon request. **Best of Show** is awarded to one wine recognized to possess characteristics of the highest quality overall.
15. 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 be contacted to schedule pouring.

## Questions?

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

For delivery or payment questions contact the Sonoma-Marín Fairgrounds staff: 707-283-3247 or email: [info@sonoma-marinfair.org](mailto: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 <i>up to \$29.99</i>
490	Zinfandel <i>\$30.00 and over</i>
500	Zinfandel <i>greater than 14.5% alcohol</i>
510	Primitivo
520	Sangiovese
540	Barbera
560	Syrah/Shiraz
580	Petite Sirah
600	Cabernet Sauvignon <i>up to \$34.99</i>
620	Cabernet Sauvignon <i>\$35.00 to \$74.99</i>
630	Cabernet Sauvignon <i>\$75.00 and over</i>
640	Cabernet Sauvignon <i>2008 Vintage or older</i>
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 Wine Competition at <http://www.enofileonline.com/landing.aspx?competitionID=260>