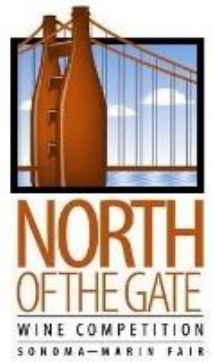


# NORTH OF THE GATE WINE COMPETITION *Information*



Welcome, to the North of the Gate Wine Competition!

*The mission of the North of the Gate wine competition is to promote and highlight the world-class wineries of Northern California. Wines entered in this competition highlight the uniqueness of the region between the Golden Gate Bridge and the Oregon border while the winners represent world renowned wines produced by farmers and winery professionals that call this bountiful landscape home.*

**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 5-day Sonoma-Marín Fair.
- Best of Show, Sweepstakes, Best of County, Best of Class, Double Gold, and Gold Medal wines are featured in the Fair Wine Garden. This is NOTG only pouring and wineries will also be invited to pour their wines for an evening.
- 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. Online, social media, and print outlets will all be utilized.

## **RULES**

1. **Eligibility:** commercial wines that are made in the counties of: Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Marin, Mendocino, Modoc, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Tehama, Trinity, 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 **Friday, April 14th, 2017**.
3. All wines must be received at the Sonoma-Marín Fairgrounds at 175 Fairgrounds Drive in Petaluma between **April 10<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017**. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, we are closed from 12-1 p.m. for lunch daily.
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 during the NOTG Wine tasting at the 2017 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 QUALIFICATIONS**

- There is no limit to the number of entries per winery.
- There is no limit to the number of vintages of the same variety a winery may enter.
- 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.
- Wines entered must be available for commercial sale prior to the start of judging, **April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017**.

## **JUDGING OF WINES**

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

## **AWARDS**

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. **Best of Show** is awarded to one wine recognized to possess characteristics of the highest quality overall.

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.

*Enter Online – using [Enofileonline.com](http://www.enofileonline.com)*

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=303>

## ENTRY INSTRUCTIONS

**Entry Information:** There is a \$60 per entry fee. Please enter online at [www.enofileonline.com](http://www.enofileonline.com) or you may send the entry fee and forms need to be sent to Sonoma-Marin Fair at 175 Fairgrounds Drive, Petaluma, CA 94952 or Entry deadline is April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**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 **April 10<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017**. Office hour are 8-Noon and 1-5pm, Monday-Friday. *No wine will be accepted for which carrier charges have not been prepaid. All wines become the property of the Sonoma-Marin Fair. Surplus bottles will be used in the North of the Gate Fair display and poured in the Wine Garden.*

## 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<br>(White Blends/Chenin Blanc/Semillon) |
| 260          | Fortified White Wine<br>(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   |
| 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<br>(Malbec/Petite Verdot)      |
| 660          | Cabernet Franc   |
| 680          | Italian—Single Varietals<br>(Charbono, Dolcetto, Nebbiolo) |
| 700          | Spanish - Single Varietals<br>(Tempranillo)                |
| 720          | Rhone - Single Varietals<br>(Mourvedre, Carignane)         |
| 740          | Grenache   |
| 760          | Red Meritage / Bordeaux Blends                             |
| 770          | All Other Red Wines including Red Blends                   |
| 780          | Fortified Wine<br>(Port, Sherry, Madeira)                  |
| 800          | Late Harvest Red with RS over 2.0                          |
| 820          | Distilled Wine<br>(Brandy, Grappa)                         |

## 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-Marin Fairgrounds staff:  
707-283-3247 or email: [info@sonoma-marinfair.org](mailto:info@sonoma-marinfair.org)

Erin Post, Chief Executive Officer ♦ Valery Uhl, Wine Competition Director

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