

CA STATE FAIR & FOOD FESTIVAL

JULY 14-30, 2023

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California State Fair Home Wine Competition Returns with Stunning Results!

SACRAMENTO — After a three-year hiatus, the highly anticipated California State Fair Home Wine Competition made its triumphant return on May 20, 2023, showcasing the talent and innovation of the state's most dedicated home winemakers.

This year's competition saw the evaluation of a total of 784 wine entries. Top honors were awarded to Michael Gardner for Best of Show White with his 2022 Viognier, Richard Mansfield, Gordon Armstrong and Elias Amireh for their Best of Show Red 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon, and Robert Joakimson for Best of Show Other with his 2022 Passion Fruit/Mango Wine.

"We are thrilled to bring back the Home Wine Competition after such a long wait. The level of talent and creativity that we've seen this year is truly astounding," said Tom Martinez, CEO of Cal Expo and the California State Fair. "Our dedicated home winemakers remind us that winemaking is not just a commercial enterprise but a deeply personal and often communal endeavor. Our heartfelt congratulations go out to all participants and especially our award winners."

Renowned New York Times bestselling author and former Co-Chief Judge of the California State Fair Commercial Wine Competition, Rick Kushman, directed the judging panels, comprised of 51 wine judges from various professions. In addition to the three Best of Show Awards, the team awarded a total of 21 Best of Class, 50 Double Gold, 100 Gold, 23 Silver, and 33 Bronze Awards among 226 winemakers.

The California State Fair Home Wine Competition continues its mission to support and promote winemaking as a home craft. By providing a platform for these wines to be judged professionally, the competition aims to enhance the knowledge, skills, and abilities of amateur winemakers, provide impartial evaluation feedback, and celebrate the success of home winemaking talents.

A complete listing of award-winning California Home Wine and competition information can be found on the California State Fair website at CalExpoStateFair.com.

For more information about the California State Fair and its summer concert series, please visit the Fair's website at www.CalExpoStateFair.com.

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About the California State Fair

The California State Fair is an international award-winning fair, receiving top honors at the International Association of Fairs and Expositions out of more than 1,100 fairs world-wide. The California State Fair is dedicated as a place to celebrate the best the state has to offer in agriculture, technology and the diversity of its people, traditions and trends that shape the Golden State's future.

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