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Announcing the 2023 California State Fair Commercial Wine Winners!

SACRAMENTO — The California State Fair is pleased to announce the winners of the 2023 [California Commercial Wine Competition](#). The highly anticipated event returned for three days at Cal Expo.

This year, we gathered an esteemed panel of 39 world-class judges under the leadership of our acclaimed Chief Judge, Mark Chandler. The judging panel had the pleasure and privilege to taste, appreciate, and judge a remarkable selection of 1,846 unique wines, originating from 246 of California's finest wineries. This competition illuminates the exceptional wine growing and producing industry in California, and is exclusively for wines made from fruit grown and crafted into wines across California's eleven picturesque wine regions. Wines are assessed and prized according to class, varietal, style, and the grape-growing region.

Earning the Best of Show Red honor was the captivating 2020 Souzao from Lewis Grace Winery. The title of Best of Show White was awarded to the refreshing 2022 Assyrtiko from New Clairvaux Winery in Tehama County.

The cream of the crop, including the Best of Region and Best of California winners, will be showcased in the delightful ambiance of the Save Mart Wine Garden during the California State Fair, from July 14 to July 30, 2023.

A total of 19 Best of Regions Awards, 20 Best of California Awards, a Best Value Award, 3 Best of Micro Winery Awards, and the prestigious Golden State Winery of the Year Award were distributed. A resounding round of applause for Jeff Runquist Wines for clinching the Golden State Winery of the Year Award! This marks Jeff Runquist's third triumphant win, following their victories in 2011 and 2019. In total, 129 Double Gold, 309 Gold, 801 Silver, and 478 Bronze medals were honorably awarded.

"It is with tremendous pride that we host and present the California Commercial Wine Competition each year," said Tom Martinez, CEO of Cal Expo. "Our event celebrates and honors the unmatched talent, dedication, and passion that go into creating California's world-class wines. From the vines to the bottles, from the winemakers to the connoisseurs, this event encapsulates the spirit of our Golden State. Our 2023 competition has brought together an incredible array of diverse and distinctive wines, reflecting the rich tapestry of our wine-growing regions. As we raise our glasses to the winners, we also raise a toast to everyone involved in this extraordinary industry. Their hard work and innovation continue to elevate California's presence on the global wine stage."

As America's oldest and most esteemed wine event dating back to 1854, the California State Fair Wine Competition has celebrated and championed the Best of the Golden State for over 169 years.



The 2022 Top California State Fair Commercial Wine Competition winners, are as follows:

Best of Show Red:

Lewis Grace
2020
Souzão
El Dorado

Best of Show White:

New Clairvaux
2022 Assyrtiko
Tehama County

Best of Show Sparkling:

Vienza at Europa Village
NV Brut Metodo Classico
North Coast

Best of Show Pink:

Carol Shelton
2022 Wild Thing Rendezvous
Mendocino County

Best of Show Dessert:

Husch Vineyards
2022 Late Harvest Gewurztraminer
Anderson Valley

Best Value:

Baron Herzon
2021 Chenin Blanc
California

Golden State Winery of the Year:

Jeff Runquist Wines

Best Micro Winery Red:

Hoyt Family Vineyards
2018 Cabernet Sauvignon
Paso Robles Willowcreek
San Luis Obispo County

Best Micro Winery White:

Tannura
2022 Fiano
Santa Clara Valley

Best Micro Winery Other:

Rancho de Philo Winery
NV Triple Cream Sherry
Mission Grape
Cucamonga Valley

Complete results and competition information can be found on the California State Fair website at CalExpoStateFair.com/California-Commercial-Wine

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