

California STATE★FAIR

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The California State Fair Announces the 2024 Home Wine Competition Winners

SACRAMENTO — The California State Fair is thrilled to announce the winners of the 2024 Home Wine Competition, which took place on April 6, 2024, at the Cal Expo grounds. This prestigious event, celebrated for fostering the spirit of home winemaking, showcased the talents of 178 home winemakers from across the state.

The competition was expertly led by Rick Kushman, New York Times bestselling author and esteemed former columnist for The Sacramento Bee. Returning for his eighth year as Chief Judge, Kushman directed a panel of 42 distinguished judges from various backgrounds, including sommeliers, university professors, and professional winemakers.

Scott Harvey of Scott Harvey Wines, known for his technical expertise, served as Technical Judge, ensuring the highest standards of judging were maintained throughout the competition. This year's competition received 573 entries, with the judges awarding a total of 3 Best of Show, 23 Best of Class, 34 Double Gold, 66 Gold, 249 Silver, and 177 Bronze Awards.

The Top Honors were Awarded to:

- **Best of Show White:** Jennifer Jeffries for her 2023 Viognier
- **Best of Show Red:** Robert Akin for his 2020 Merlot-Cabernet Bordeaux Blend
- **Best of Show Other:** Sean Joakimson for his 2021 Riesling, Ice Wine Style

In addition to the Home Wine Competition, the California State Fair announced the winners of the Commercial Wine Competition last month. Those results, showcasing some of the finest professional vintages California has to offer, can also be found on the California State Fair website.

"The Home Wine Competition not only highlights the remarkable skills of amateur winemakers but also nurtures a growing community passionate about the art and science of winemaking", said Tom Martinez, CEO of California State Fair & Cal Expo. This event is a cornerstone of our mission to promote agricultural education and innovation throughout California."

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For those interested in viewing the full list of winners and learning more about the competition, please visit the California State Fair website at www.CalExpoStateFair.com.

The California State Fair is committed to supporting and promoting the craft of home winemaking and looks forward to the continued success of its participants in future competitions.

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