COMMERCIAL BEER 2025 COMPETITION GUIDE

It's your moment to shine! Enter today.

For more than 170 years the California State Fair has been a constant showcase of the talents and achievements of the people of California. Entering into the California State Fair's 2025 Competitive Exhibits Program allows you the opportunity to showcase your abilities, and revel in your accomplishments!

The California State Fair's friendly competitions are designed to acknowledge the best of the Golden State. Our Competitive Programs inspire talented Californians, as well as highlight the latest advances in technology, agriculture, and industry.

More than 750,000 visitors are expected at the State Fair this summer. Your work is an integral part of the State's celebration, and we look forward to seeing your talents on display during the annual State Fair from July 11-27, 2025.

We encourage you to enter today and begin making lasting memories for yourself, and for the hundreds of thousands of State Fair patrons! **GOVERNOR**

Gavin Newsom

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Sincerely,

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The

Showcase your award winning Beer in the Guide to the Best of California Magazine!

The Guide to the Best of California Magazine showcases the Double Gold and Gold winning craft beer, wine, cheese and olive oil from the 2025 California State Fair competitions.

Showcase your award winning beer to enthusiasts eager to learn about the Best of California in one publication.

The guide is marketed as a resource all year long and is available on the official California State Fair website, shared on Facebook and X to over 220,000 followers, emailed to 100,000+ people, and 10,000 print magazines are distributed at high profile locations, and Farm-to-Fork events:

- Governor's Office and State Capitol
- California State Fair Wine GardenWine Experience Classes
- California State Fair Hot Spots
- Industry & Community Events

Ad spaces are available in the Guide to the Best of California Magazine starting at \$4,650.

Contact Event Partnership:

Holly@eventpartnership.net 805.888.9165

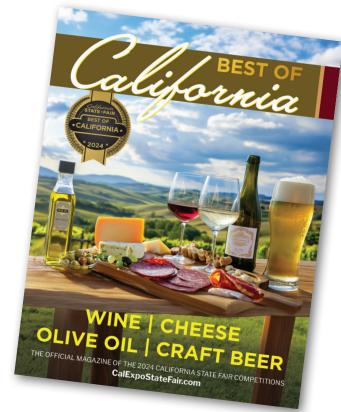


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IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO KNOW

Contact: David Teckam, Competition Head Judge

Rob Rogers, Competition Coordinator

E-mail: CommercialBeer@CalExpo.com

Entry Dates:

March 31	Entries Open
May 10	Entries Close: Nor-Cal & So-Cal
April 14-May 10	Shipping Entries Accepted at Cal Expo
April 14-April 26	Angel City Brewery: Southern California Drop Off Dates
April 24-April 26	Cal Expo: Northern California Drop Off Dates
May 15 - 18	Judging: Closed Session
May 26	Winners Announced/Scoresheets Posted Online
May 29	Kegs Available for Pickup
TBD	Brewmaster Awards Luncheon

The California State Fair July 11 - 27, 2025

The California State Fair has always been the awe-inspiring showcase of the state's finest, and ever since the first fair in 1854, California has upheld this tradition. People come from all over to witness the competition and innovation that our exhibitors produce. We continue to add new and exciting competitions to our competitive programs to showcase California's very best!

Why enter the Competition?

Judges are selected by a BJCP Grand Master Judge and other respected craft beer industry professionals.

Award winning benefits include:

- Top awards are featured in the Best of California Magazine
- Best of Show beer will be purchased and featured in the beer garden for the entire Fair.
- Invitation to attend the Brewmaster Award Luncheon & enjoy a complimentary day at the Fair.

COMPETITION OVERVIEW



To offer the commercial craft brewers of California a venue by which qualified judges and peer commercial craft brewers may evaluate their product. Encourage brewing in California and improve the knowledge of the art and science of brewing. Educate the California public information about beer, beer styles and the art and science of

brewing. Enrich the reputation of California as a significant contributor to the resurgence of craft brewing. Acknowledge the prowess of California's commercial brewers who produce superior beers.

How to Enter

Enter online at https://CAStateFair.BrewingCompetitions.com

Entry Registration & Fees

- 1. **Entry Registration:** All entry registration(s) and fee(s) must be received by **Sunday, May 10, 2025,** by 4:00 pm.
- 2. **Entry Fees:** Entry fees are **\$65.00** per entry. Payment must be made via PayPal.

NO CASH ACCEPTED FOR ENTRIES.

a. Please pay on our registration site at https://castateFair.BrewingCompetitions.com
 (Additional PayPal processing fees may apply.)

General Information

- Additional Information: Should there be any need for additional information not found in the guides, please email: CommercialBeer@CalExpo.com.
- **2. Revisions:** Guide is sent out in advance and therefore may be subject to revision or change.
- **3. Mailing List and Notification:** Although we try to keep mailing lists current, we cannot be held responsible for any individual or company that is not notified or contacted.

RULES & REQUIREMENTS

- 1. Brewers must be:
 - a. Official residents of California.
 - b. The brewery must hold a valid commercial brewing license.
 - c. Brewers must be at least 21 years of age.
 - d. Persons submitting an entry must have a direct association with the brewing of the entry, being a brewer, owner, or management. Distributors are not considered directly related to the production of beer and may only submit entries in the names of their clients, with their clients' approval.
 - e. If you own the rights to a brand, but your beverage(s) is/are produced by another producer, you are still eligible to enter the competition. Any award won by a contract brand is property of the winning con-tract producer which owns the brand, not the company producing the entry.
- 2. **Eligibility Requirements** in this guide build on the pioneering work of BJCP, GABF, and Brewers Association style guidelines. We appreciate their contributions and efforts to the beverage industry. **Beer:** At least 51% of the fermentable carbohydrates must be derived from malted grains. Beverages made with malt substitutes, honey, fruit or fruit juices, or anything other than malted grains as the majority of fermentable sugars are not eligible to participate. **Cider:** At least 51% of the fermentable carbohydrates must be derived from apples or apple juice. **Kombucha:** Must contain black or green tea. Beverages without tea will be considered a hard seltzer.
- 3. Brewers are limited to three entries per category.
- 4. No single brewing location nor a group that owns multiple breweries may enter more than a total of 20 beers combined.
- 5. A beer brand may not be renamed and entered into multiple categories, however the same beer brand can be entered into multiple categories. A separate entry fee must paid for each additional category entered, and the minimum bottle, can, crowler, growler, or keg requirements still apply. Also you must not exceed the 20 maximum total entry limit.
- 6. Entries may be bottled, canned, crowlers, in growlers or kegged in either Cornelius or Sankey kegs.
- 7. **Do not remove any commercial bottle labels. Do not** black out any com-

mercial or identifying designs or text on caps of entries.

Attach bottle labels to kegs in a secure manner allowing them to be easily read by competition officials so that appropriate code numbers can be placed on the keg. Shipping tape appears to have worked well. It helps to put them in plastic baggies also.

- 8. Attach the bottle entry forms that are generated from the Commercial Competition website, only entry forms found in this database will be accepted. Attach to each bottle with clear packing tape. No rubber bands! For Kegs; place printed bottle label on kegs so it may be easily read when processed, please use plastic bags to keep forms dry.
- 9. An official entry shall consist of one of the following:
 - a. Four (4) 12/16/20 oz. bottles or cans
 - b. Four (4) 22/24 oz. bottles or cans
 - c. One (1) Cornelius or Sankey keg not to exceed 7.5 gallons
 - d. Four (4) 16 oz. or greater Crowlers
 - e. Two (2) 64 oz. Growlers
- 10. All judging will be done with panels combining qualified judges and commercial brewing peers. Brewers or judges may not judge on panels in which they have a conflict of interest. At least one judge who has been certified by the Beer Judge Certification Program will sit on each judging panel.
- 11. Beers will be disqualified for entry requirement infractions. These beers will be judged and will receive evaluations but will be ineligible for awards.
- 12. All beers will be decanted prior to presentation to the judges. Kegs will be served off 5' quarter inch tubing at 10 psi.
- 13. Brewers are required to use online registration and payment at https://castateFair.BrewingCompetitions.com
- 14. No late entries will be accepted.
- 15. By submitting an entry to this competition the entrant:
 - a. Asserts that they have legal title to submit the entry.
 - b. Asserts the beer was brewed in the State and for commercial sale in the State of California.
 - c. Agrees to provide proof of such availability upon request.
 - d. Agrees to abide by the herein-stated policy on use of any awards or certificates in advertising.

e. All breweries that have entered the competition are invited and encouraged to participate in the awards presentation luncheon at the California State Fair.

Advertising

The only allowable use of awards and certificates given by the California State Fair Commercial Craft Brewing Competition for advertising purposes shall be as follows:

- Any advertising use must clearly state the name and year of the competition,
 - (i.e., Best of California Commercial Craft Brew Competition 2025).
- 17. Must clearly state the level and category of award, (i.e., Silver Certificate Stouts... 1st Place Light Ales).
- 18. One Best of Show will be awarded by the judges of the competition; no one else may use the designation "Best of Show" in any advertising using the name of this competition or its awards.
- 19. The phrase "Best Beer in California" shall not be used in conjunction with any awards made by this competition.

Failure to comply with these guidelines will be a basis for revocation of awards or certificates by organizers and the publication of such revocations to the general public.

Best of Show winner will have winning beer featured in the California State Fair Beer Garden. OVG will buy beer from the winner and arrange for shipping for the entire three weeks of Fair.

DELIVERY & SHIPPING

Hand Delivery (Drop-Off)

Submission/receipt of entries (bottles, cans, kegs, crowlers, growlers, etc.)

Northern CA: Thursday, April 24, 2025, to Saturday April 26, 2025 (10am - 4pm)

Southern CA: Monday, April 14, 2025, to Saturday, April 26, 2025

No early or late entries will be accepted. Please include a copy of your receipt with your entries. Do not remove any commercial bottle labels.

Northern California Drop-Off Location:

Sacramento

Commercial Craft Beer Competition

California State Fair Attn: Steve Martinez (916) 997-7450 Ethan & Hurley, Cal Expo Gate 12 Expo Center #6 1600 Exposition Blvd. Sacramento, CA 95815

Entries accepted April 24 - April 26 ONLY between 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM.

Special Instructions MAP

Enter Cal Expo through Gate 12 at the corner of Ethan & Hurley Way. Follow the service road past the farm and past Raging Waters. Turn right at the 3-way intersection. Expo Center is directly ahead. Drop off will be held inside building #6. Follow the signs!

Southern California Drop-Off Location:

Los Angeles

Commercial Craft Beer Competition

Angel City Brewery 216 S. Alameda Los Angeles, CA 90012

Entries accepted April 14 - April 26 from 8:00 AM - 10:00 PM.

*No appointment necessary.

Weekend drop-off from 12:00 PM - 10:00 PM.

*No appointment necessary. Speak to bar staff on-site.

Come to the gate on Traction Ave, ring bell if gate is closed. Otherwise, ask bar staff during open hours to leave entries in cooler.

So-Cal drop off questions, please contact:

Layton Cutler, Head Brewer

Email: <u>Layton.Cutler@AngelCityBrewery.com</u> Cell: (347) 563-5596

Shipping

Cal Expo California State Fair

Commercial Craft Beer Competition

Attn: Courtney Wiegman, Event Producer (916) 221-0783 1600 Exposition Blvd. Sacramento, CA 95815

Entries accepted April 14 - May 10

For more information or questions regarding entries, please contact:

Rob Rogers, Competition Coordinator

Email: <u>CommercialBeer@CalExpo.com</u>

JUDGING (CLOSED SESSION)

Judging Time & Place

Judging registration website: https://CAStateFair.BrewingCompetitions.com

- The judging will be held in closed session on May 15 18, 2025. Winners will be presented at the California State Fair during the Brewmaster Award Luncheon. For more information, contact CommercialBeer@CalExpo.com.
- 2. The entrant agrees by submitting an entry to abide by the rules of the competition and rules regarding the use of any awards and certificate endowed by this competition.
- 3. All breweries entering the competition are invited and encouraged to the **Brewmaster Award Luncheon at the California State Fair.**
- 4. All judging will be done with panels combining qualified judges and commercial brewing peers. Brewers or judges may not judge on panels in which they have entries or a conflict of interest. At least one judge who has been certified by the Beer Judge Certification Program will sit on each judging panel.
- 5. Beers will be disqualified for entry requirement infractions. These beers will be judged and will receive evaluations but will be ineligible for awards.
- 6. Kegs submitted will be available for pickup on May 29, 2025. Every attempt will be made to return kegs; however, organizers and the California State Fair cannot be held responsible for the loss of equipment not picked up. We encourage the use of disposable/recyclable kegs for the competition.

Basis of Judging

The Commercial Craft Brewing Competition will use the American system of judging. This competition will follow the BJCP Competition Standards and is BJCP Sanctioned.

All judging will be double-blind. Entries will be cold stored until judging time. Judging will be overseen by a Lead Judge whose decisions will stand.

Brewery of the year shall be determined by the following medal (ribbon) point totals:

Gold (1st) = 8 pts. Silver (2nd) = 4 pts. Bronze (3rd) = 2 pts.

In case of a tie Brewery of the Year will be determined by the following tie breaker conditions, applied in order:

- 1. The lowest number of entries.
- 2. The highest number of Gold ribbons.
- 3. The highest total number of overall ribbons.

Awards Philosophy

The California State Fair awards medals for excellence in 62 categories and does not necessarily award medals to the top three finishers in a particular category. When judges decide that a category contains three excellent examples of the style, they award gold, silver, and bronze medals for the first, second, and third place beers, respectively. If judges believe that no beer in the category meets the quality and style accuracy criteria, they may elect not to award a medal. Judges may award a silver or a bronze medal and yet not award a gold medal in a category.

The award criteria are as follows:

Gold: A world-class beer that accurately exemplifies the specified style, displaying the proper balance of taste, aroma, and appearance.

Silver: An excellent beer that may vary slightly from style parameters while maintaining close adherence to the style and displaying excellent taste, aroma, and appearance.

Bronze: A fine example of the style that may vary slightly from style parameters and/or have minor deviations in taste, aroma, or appearance.

AWARDS

Gold (1st), Silver (2nd) & Bronze (3rd)	Rosette
Best of Show Beer	Rosette and Golden Bear Trophy
Brewery of the Year	Golden Mash Paddle

Best of Show winner will have winning beer featured in the Best Of California Magazine and will be served at the California State Fair Beer Garden. OVG will buy beer from the winner and arrange shipping for the entire three weeks of Fair.

Should you be awarded a Bronze, Silver, or Gold award for your entries, you may choose any of the following forms of recognition:

OPTION 1: An electronic version of an award-winning medal to use for digital marketing.

OPTION 2: Purchase of award seals for application to your product.

OPTION 3: The traditional award rosette for the award your entry received.

Following the competition, you will receive an award letter sent via email. Order form must be submitted to receive awards. Requested Awards will be mailed in August 2025 after the Fair closes.



CATEGORIES

The following categories are determined by a combination of many factors, including BJCP, GABF, and World Cup style parameters.

As such, these style categories possibly could and should change from year to year.

The Head Judge reserves the right to combine classes when the number of entries warrants.

I. LAGER BEER STYLES

1. Standard American Lager

- 1A. American Light Lager
- 1B. Northern American-Style Lager
- 1C. American Style Malt Liquor

2. International Lager

- 2A. Pale Lager
- 2B. Amber Lager
- 2C. Dark Lager

3. American-Style Pilsner or International-Style Pilsner

- 3A. Pre-Prohibition Pilsner
- 3B. European-Style Pilsner
- 3C. German-Style Pilsner

4. Bohemian-Style Pilsner (Czech Lager)

- 4A. Czech Pale Lager
- 4B. Czech Dark Lager

5. Pale European Beer

- 5A. Kellerbier or Zwickelbier
- 5B. German Leichtbier
- 5C. European-Style Export/ Dortmunder
- 6. Munich-Style Helles

7. German/Vienna-Style Märzen

- 7A. Vienna Lager
- 7B. Märzen/Oktoberfestbier
- 8. European-Style Dark Lager

- 8A. Munich Dunkel
- 8B. Schwarzbier

9. Bocks

- 9A. Helles Bock/Maibock
- 9B. Traditional German-Style Bock
- 9C. Doppelbock
- 9D. Eisbock

II. HYBRID/MIXED ALES OR LAGERS & SPECIALTY STYLES

10. American-Style Cream Ale

- 11. Kölsch
- 12. German-Style Altbier
- 13. California Common
- 14. Baltic-Style Porter
- 15. American-Style Wheat Beer

16. German-Style Wheat Ale

- 16A. Kristal Weizen
- 16B. Hefeweizen
- 16C. Dunkelweizen
- 16D. Weizenbock

17. Berliner-Style Weisse *

18. Gose *

- 18A. Leipzig-Style Gose
- 18B. Contemporary Gose

19. Rye Beer*

19A. Rye beer

19B. German-Style Rye ale

20. American-Style Fruit Beer*

20A. Fruit beer

20B. Fruit & Spice beer

21. Pumpkin Beer*

22. Herb & Spice Beer*

23. Coffee Beer*

24. Chocolate Beer*

25. Smoked Beer

25A. Bamberg-Style Rauchbier

25B. Smoked Porter

25C. Other Smoked Beer

26. Historical Beer Styles

26A. Lichtenhainer

26B. Grodziskie

26C. Adambier

26D. Kentucky Common

26E. London Brown Ale

26F. Pre-Prohibition Porter

26G. Finnish-Style Sahti

III. ALE STYLES

27. Blonde or Golden Ale

28. British Mild & Bitters

28A. English-Style Mild Ale

28B. Ordinary Bitter

28C. Special Bitter

28D. Extra Special Bitter

29. Standard British Ales

29A. English-Style Brown Ale

29B. English-Style Porter/ Brown Porter

30. British Strong Ales

30A. Wee Heavy/Scotch Ale

30B. Old Ale

30C. English Barleywine

30D. Other British Strong Ales

31. Scottish Ale

31A. Scottish Light

31B. Scottish Heavy

31C. Scottish Export

32. Irish Red Ale

33. Classic Irish-Style Dry Stout

33A. Irish-Stylel Stout

33B. Foreign Extra Stout

34. Stouts (Dry)

34A. Oatmeal Stout

35. Stouts (Sweet)

35A. Milk Stout/Cream Stout

35B. Tropical Stout

36. Imperial Stouts

37. American Amber & Brown Ales

37A. American Amber Ale

37B. American Brown Ale

38. American Porter & Stout

38A. American Porter

38B. American Stout

39. American Pale Ale

40. English-Style India Pale Ale

41. American-Style India Pale Ale

42. New England-Style IPA (Hazy IPA)

43. American Imperial IPA

43A. Double IPA

43B. Triple IPA

44. Specialty IPA

44A. Belgian IPA

44B. Black IPA

44C. Brown IPA

44D. Red IPA

44E. Rye IPA

44F. White IPA

45. Strong American Ale

- 45A. American Barleywine
- 45B. Wheatwine Ale
- 45C. Imperial Porter
- 45D. Other American Strong Ales
- 46. Belgian-Style Witbier
- 47. Classic Saison
- 48. Specialty Saison*
- 49. Belgian & French-Style Ale
 - 49A. Belgian Table Beer
 - 49B. Belgian Blond Ale
 - 49C. Belgian Pale Ale
 - 49D. Grisette
 - 49E. Bière de Garde
 - 49F. Other Belgian/French-Style Ales

50. Belgian Strong Ale

- 50A. Belgian Pale Strong Ale
- 50B. Belgian Dark Strong Ale
- 50C. Belgian Strong Specialty Ale*

51. Trappist Style Ale

- 51A. Trappist Blond/Single/ Extra
- 51B. Trappist Dubbel
- 51C. Trappist Tripel
- 51D. Trappist Quadrupel

52. Belgian Sour Ale

- 52A. Oud Bruin
- 52B. Flanders Red Ale
- 52C. Other Belgian-Style Sour Ale*

53. Belgian-Style Lambic

- 53A. Lambic
- 53B. Gueuze
- 53C. Fruit Lambic*

54. American Wild Ale

- 54A. Brett Beer
- 54B. Mixed Culture Beer*
- 54C. Wild Specialty Beer*

- 55. Wood- and Barrel-Aged (stored in barrels previously containing wine, port, or sherry)*
- 56. Wood- and Barrel-Aged (stored in barrels previously containing distilled spirits i.e. brandy, bourbon, gin, rum, rye, scotch, tequila, and other whiskey)*

57. Alternative Fermentable Beer*

- 57A. Alternative Grain Beer
- 57B. Alternative Sugar Beer
- 57C. Honey Beer
- 58. Experimental Beer*
- 59. Session Beer (beer less than or equal to 5% abv. that doesn't already fit in a category.)*
- 60. Chili Beer*
- *Please include specialty information about your beer for accurate judging. Must specify beer base style, fruit, herbs or spices used.

IV. ALTERNATIVE FERMENTABLES

- 61. Cider
- 62. Hard Kombucha
- 63. Hard Seltzer
- 64. Non-Alcoholic



2025 GENERAL RULES

CLICK LINK OR SCAN QR CODE TO VIEW GENERAL RULES ONLINE:

https://calexpostatefair.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/25-General-Rules.pdf



DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply to this guide

American System of Judging: Each entry in a class is judged in comparison to the other entries in the class. Entries are placed first, second, third, etc. according to relative merit. There will be no more than one first, second, third, etc. per class.

Danish System of Judging: Each entry in a class is judged on its own merit. Entries are placed first, second, third, etc., depending on points received based on the score card. There may be more than one first, second, third, etc. per class.

Senior Departments: California Fine Art, California Handcrafts, California Fiber Crafts, California Baking & Canning, Student Showcase, Photography, Commercial Wine, Commercial Brew, Home Brew, California Cheese, California Olive Oil, Open Livestock by species and Open Small Animals by species.

Junior Departments: Youth Arts, California Youth Baking & Canning, Student Showcase, Photography Junior Livestock by species and Junior Small Animals by species.

Senior/Open Exhibitor: An exhibitor who is no longer eligible to be a Junior Exhibitor or enter a Junior Department.

Junior Exhibitor: An exhibitor who is a member of 4-H, FFA, Grange, or an Independent Youth Exhibitor who meets the requirements of Independent Junior divisions offered. See the specific show and General Rules for exceptions to this definition.

Entry Office: The California State Fair Entry Office is located at 1600 Exposition Blvd., Sacramento. Contact may be made by phone, mail, email or personal contact. Questions regarding competitions may also be directed to the Entry Office. (916) 263-3149 - entryoffice@calexpo.com.

Still Exhibits: All competitive exhibits which are typically indoor and not involving animals, such as art, quilts, foods, crafts, sewing, metalwork, jewelry, graphics, drafting, sciences, etc.

Livestock & Small Animals: All competitive exhibits which animals are the entry; such as beef, sheep, swine, dairy cattle, goats, llamas, cavies, rabbits, poultry, dogs, etc.

Online Entry: Commitment to enter and abide by rules.

Detailed Receipt: An official form used in submitting an entry/exhibit in the California State Fair. The Detailed Receipt is only required for Open and Junior Livestock, Small Animals, Best of Show and Ag Mechanic exhibitors.

Entry Fees: A fee charged to enter a competition. All entry fees must be paid online when entries are submitted.

Entry/Exhibit: Terms used to define the item entered in the competition or contest.

Entrant/Exhibitor: Terms used to define the person entering the competition.

Premium: A cash award is given to winners of the competition.

Department: Competition you wish to enter, i.e., California Handcrafts, California Fiber Crafts, Fine Art, Youth Arts, etc. which is comprised of similar shows.

Shows: Generalized sections of the competition.

Division: Categories within a show.

Class: Specific categories within a division.

Competition Guide: A printed or electronic (web) book, prospectus, or flyer which contains information for entry into the California State Fair competitions. Competition Guides can be a printed document or as an electronic document found on the California Exposition & State Fair website CAStateFair.org.

Bonafide Ownership of Exhibit: Ownership is the state or fact of exclusive rights and control over property considered an entry or exhibit. This definition includes livestock, small animals, and horses although not limited to that type of property. Objects/products created or produced are also included as well as intellectual property. Proof of such ownership may be required by management.