



THE JEFFERSON CUP INVITATIONAL WINE COMPETITION

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The Jefferson Cup Invitational
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Kansas City, Missouri – The Jefferson Cup Invitational has celebrated its eighteenth year as the only competition that honors the best of the best among wineries from all of America’s wine regions. Each year we select great wines from across America; the 2017 competition included wines from twenty-seven states. At the end of the second day of this year’s tasting, November 17, 2017 wines from NINE different states had captured top honors. Just as the event’s namesake would have it, democracy reigned at this year’s Jefferson Cup Wine Competition.

The two-day competition culminated with the awarding of sixteen Jefferson Cup Trophies. Jefferson Cups were awarded to wines made from both vinifera vines (the European species responsible for more famous wines such as Chardonnay and Cabernet) and non-vinifera vines, which flourish in the more extreme climates in the U.S.

These sixteen prestigious Jefferson Cups, the Sweepstakes Awards for our competition, were awarded to seven white wines, five red wines, one rosé wine, one mead and two dessert wines. “While many competitions insist upon selecting a pre-ordained number of sweepstakes winners, our judges are allowed to find the top wines, whether there are only one, two or three, or even NO winners in some categories, as happened this year,” says Jefferson Cup Invitational founder Doug Frost. “Last year we had a fruit wine and a muscadine based wine as winners, and this year saw a rosé and a mead. There were once again great examples of wine, both from vinifera and non-vinifera grapes.” Together with forty-six other Jefferson Cup nominated wines, these sixteen wines represent some of the most compelling wines made in America.

Although many expect California to dominate the awards, Jefferson Cups were won by eight other states as well: Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, New York and, for the first time ever, Maine. The Jefferson Cup nominees, all Double Gold recipients, included wines from thirteen different states. And while there is no quota for non-vinifera wines in the Jefferson Cup finals, with both red wines and white wines, the number of vinifera and non-vinifera wines among the nominees was virtually identical.

Many people have begun to call the Jefferson Cup Invitational, the “Olympics” of wine competitions. This competition is not open to every winery willing to submit an entrance fee. Rather we select the best of the best, culled from tastings and competitions in America throughout 2017. The Jefferson Cup Invitational was founded in 1999 in honor of Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson fathered our constitution, helped champion the international concept of human rights and was a seminal figure in America’s cultural, culinary (including wine) and agricultural history.

About the Jefferson Cup Invitational

The Seventeenth Annual Jefferson Cup Invitational took place on November 16 and 17, 2017 in Kansas City, Missouri. The Jefferson Cup is a different sort of wine competition, in that it is an invitational in which seven hundred and fifty wines are pre-selected which exemplify top viticulture and winemaking throughout America.

Out of seven hundred fifty participating wines, the judges selected just two-hundred-eleven wines to receive the Bronze Medals, honoring wines exemplary of their regions and varieties, Two-hundred-seventy-eight wines received Silver Medals, and the judges found seventy-three wines to be worthy of Gold Medals and sixty-two being granted Double Gold Medals. These are truly great wines, reflecting our goal of finding and praising wines of true American excellence.

Those sixty-two Double Gold wines (and Jefferson Cup nominees) were tasted by the entire group of twenty-one judges. Out of those honored wines, the judges collectively picked sixteen wines to be awarded the Jefferson Cup. And by selecting both vinifera and non-vinifera wines for the Jefferson Cup each year, the goal is to respect the diversity of American viticulture and Jefferson's own acceptance of native varieties and hybrids. Jefferson fathered our constitution, helped champion the international concept of human rights and was a seminal figure in America's cultural, culinary (including wine) and agricultural history.

“In most other competitions there is ‘open’ seating,” says Frost, ”and California represents 90% of the entries. As a result it usually captures 90% of the honors,” he said. “What we are doing is following Mr. Jefferson’s example and allowing every quality wine-producing region in America a place at our table. Each year we select great wines from across America; the 2017 competition included wines from twenty-seven states.”

Following the Jefferson Cup competition, the remaining wines are donated for an annual event that benefits children and adults in need. This year the Jefferson Cup raised more than \$200,000 for AngelFlight Central (www.angelflightcentral.org). In more than a decade of assisting the AngelFlight Central, the Jefferson Cup has raised nearly 1.5 million dollars. We hope that these events reflect well upon the great heritage of Thomas Jefferson.

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The 2017 JEFFERSON CUP winners are:

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For White Non-Vinifera Wine:

Fireside Winery Frontenac Gris 2016 Iowa
Holy-Field Vineyard & Winery Amitié 2016 Kansas
Cellardoor Winery Queen Anne's Lace 2014 American

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For White Vinifera Wine:

St. Julian Wine Company Gruner Veltliner 2016 Michigan
Wagner Vineyards Riesling Dry 2016 Finger Lakes
Wagner Vineyards Riesling Select 2016 Finger Lakes
Fox Run Vineyards Riesling Lot 11 Lake Dana Vineyard 2014 Seneca Lake

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For Rosé Wine:

pureCru Napa Valley Rosato Di Sangio 2016 Lodi

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For Red Vinifera Wine:

Left Foot Charley Bläufrankisch 2016 Michigan
Southwest Wine Center Mourvèdre 2016 Willcox
The Winery at Holy Cross Abbey Syrah 2015 American
Trefethen Family Vineyards Merlot 2014 Oak Knoll District

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For Red Non-Vinifera Wine:

Adam Puchta Winery Impulse nv Missouri

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For Mead:

Pirtle Winery Blackberry Mead nv Missouri

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For Dessert Wine:

Hunt Country Vineyards Vidal Blanc Ice Wine 2016 Finger Lakes
Stone Hill Winery Cream Sherry nv Missouri