



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 twentieth 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 2019 competition included wines from twenty-seven states. At the end of the second day of this year's tasting, November 15, thirty-six wines from eleven 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 thirty-six Jefferson Cup Trophies 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 thirty-six prestigious Jefferson Cups, the Sweepstakes Awards for our competition, were awarded to fourteen white wines, fourteen red wines, two sparkling wines, two rosés, and four fruit or 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 has happened,” says Jefferson Cup Invitational founder Doug Frost. “In previous years we’ve had muscadine wine and mead as winners, and this year saw two rosés and a fruit wine. There were once again great examples of wine, both from vinifera and non-vinifera grapes.” Together with twenty-three other Jefferson Cup nominated wines, these thirty-six wines represent some of the most compelling wines made in America.

Although many expect California to dominate the awards, Jefferson Cups were won by ten other states as well: Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, South Dakota and Texas. And reflective of changes in the world of wine, a constellation of grapes were included among the winners: Blaufrankish, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Catawba, Concord, Cynthiana/Norton, Gewurztraminer, Muscat, Petite Pearl, Pinot Blanc, Riesling (in fact, five of them), St. Vincent, Traminette, Vignoles, and one of the famed T.V. Munson-created varieties, Wetumka. Certain wineries were particularly successful, winning multiple Jefferson Cups: Adam Puchta Winery, Dry Creek Vineyards, Pirtle Winery, Wagner Vineyards, Amoritas Vineyards, Aurora Cellars, and Two K Farms (the latter three all from Michigan).

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 2019. 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 Twentieth Annual Jefferson Cup Invitational took place on November 14 and 15, 2019 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 one hundred seventy-two wines to receive the Bronze Medals, honoring wines exemplary of their regions and varieties, three hundred thirteen wines received Silver Medals, and the judges found seventy-six wines to be worthy of Gold Medals and twenty-three being granted Double Gold Medals. These are truly great wines, reflecting our goal of finding and praising wines of true American excellence.

The fifty-nine Jefferson Cup Nominees included wines from fifteen states. They were tasted by the entire group of twenty judges. Out of those honored wines, the judges collectively picked thirty-six 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 2019 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 \$180,000 for AngelFlight Central (www.angelflightcentral.org). In more than a decade of assisting AngelFlight Central, the Jefferson Cup has raised more than 1.5 million dollars. We hope that these events reflect well upon the great heritage of Thomas Jefferson.

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The 2019 JEFFERSON CUP winners are:

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For Sparkling Wine or Cider:

Aurora Cellars Brut Rose nv Leelanau Peninsula
Les Bourgeois Vineyards Brut Rose nv Missouri
Two K Farms Rosé Cider nv Michigan

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For White Non-Vinifera Wine:

Adam Puchta Winery Dry Vignoles nv Missouri
Stonehaus Farms Vineyard & Winery Vignoles nv Missouri
Fireside Winery Storyteller nv Iowa
St. Julian Wine Company Braganini Reserve Traminette 2018 Lake Michigan Shore
TerraVox Wetumka 2018 Missouri

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For White Vinifera Wine:

Amoritas Vineyards Pinot Blanc 2018 Leelanau Peninsula
Amoritas Vineyards Fascinator 2018 Leelanau Peninsula
Fox Run Vineyards Semi-Dry Riesling 2017 Finger Lakes
Left Foot Charley Seventh Hill Farm Riesling 2017 Old Mission Peninsula
Sheldrake Point Winery Gewürztraminer 2017 Finger Lakes
Two K Farms Riesling 2017 Leelanau Peninsula
Wagner Vineyards Riesling Dry 2017 Finger Lakes
Wagner Vineyards Riesling Semi Dry 2017 Finger Lakes

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For Rosé Wine:

Missouri State University Pink Catawba 2018 Missouri

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For Red Vinifera Wine:

Amigoni Urban Winery Urban Drover 2017 American
Aurora Cellars Blaufrankisch 2016 Leelanau Peninsula
Becker Vineyards Cabernet Franc Reserve 2017 Texas High Plains
Brys Estate Vineyard & Winery Cabernet Franc Reserve 2017 Old Mission Peninsula
Dry Creek Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2016 Dry Creek Valley
Dry Creek Vineyard Old Vine Zinfandel 2016 Dry Creek Valley
Eden Hill Vineyard Divine Red 2017 Texas
Pedernales Cellars Tempranillo Reserve 2016 Texas High Plains
The Winery at Holy Cross Abbey Cabernet Sauvignon 2017 Colorado

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For Red Non-Vinifera Wine:

Adam Puchta Winery Situation Red nv Missouri
JOLO Winery and Vineyards Pilot Fog 2018 Yadkin Valley
Pirtle Winery The Westonian 2017 Missouri
Pirtle Winery Mellow Red 2018 Missouri
Prairie Berry Winery Wild Bill nv American
Tipple Hill Winery Petite Pearl 2017 Missouri

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For Fruit, Dessert and Fortified Wine:

Holy-Field Vineyard & Winery Over the Rainbow Raspberry nv Kansas
Breneman Brothers Riesling Ice Wine 2017 Leelanau Peninsula
Breitenbach Wine Cellars Tawny Port nv Ohio
Stone Hill Winery Cream Sherry nv Missouri

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