



## *THE JEFFERSON CUP INVITATIONAL WINE COMPETITION*

**Doug Frost MS, MW**  
**The Jefferson Cup Invitational**  
**(913) 385-7376**

### **November 11, 2021 Press Release**

**Kansas City, Missouri** – The Jefferson Cup Invitational has celebrated its twenty-second 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 2021 competition included wines from twenty-seven states. At the end of the second day of this year's tasting, November 5, thirty-four wines from thirteen 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-four Jefferson Cup Trophies to wines made from both vinifera vines (the European species responsible for famous grapes such as Chardonnay and Cabernet) and non-vinifera vines, which flourish in the more extreme climates in the U.S.

These thirty-four prestigious Jefferson Cups, the Sweepstakes Awards for our competition, were awarded to thirteen white wines, twelve red wines, one sparkling wine, one rosé, one mead, and six 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 as winners, and this year saw two fortified dessert wines and a fruit wine. There were once again great examples of wine, both from vinifera and non-vinifera grapes.” Together with twenty-six other Jefferson Cup nominated wines, these thirty-four 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: Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas and Washington. And reflective of changes in the world of wine, a constellation of grapes were included among the winners: Gewurztraminer, Syrah, Saperavi, Grenache, Chambourcin, Cabernet Sauvignon, Valvin Muscat, Cynthiana/Norton, Riesling (in fact, three of them), Vidal Blanc, Vignoles, and Norton. Certain wineries were particularly successful, winning a remarkable three Jefferson Cups each: Aurora Cellars (Michigan), Holy-Field Winery (Kansas) and Stone Hill (Missouri).

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 2021. 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 4 and 5, 2021 in Mission, Kansas. 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 forty-three wines to receive the Bronze Medals, honoring wines exemplary of their regions and varieties, three hundred four wines received Silver Medals, and the judges found seventy-eight wines to be worthy of Gold Medals and twenty-six being granted Double Gold Medals. These are truly great wines, reflecting our goal of finding and praising wines of true American excellence.

The sixty Jefferson Cup Nominees included wines from eighteen states. They were tasted by the entire group of twenty judges. Out of those honored wines, the judges collectively picked thirty-four 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 2021 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 \$150,000 for AngelFlight Central ([www.angelflightcentral.org](http://www.angelflightcentral.org)). In more than a decade of assisting AngelFlight Central, the Jefferson Cup has raised nearly two million dollars.

## **THE JEFFERSON CUP INVITATIONAL WINE COMPETITION**

## The 2021 JEFFERSON CUP winners are:

### *For Sparkling Wine or Mead:*

KC Wineworks Sparkling Rose  
Martin Brothers Mead Wildflower  
Pirtle Winery Blackberry Mead

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### *For White Non-Vinifera Wine:*

Bourgmont Winery LaCrescent nv Kansas  
Holy-Field Vineyard & Winery Vignoles nv Kansas  
Holy-Field Vineyard & Winery Valvin Muscat nv Kansas  
St. Julian Wine Company Braganini Reserve Traminette 2020 Lake Michigan Shore  
Spirits of Norway Domaine du Chateau 2020 Wisconsin  
Three Oak Winery Frontenac Gris 2017 Minnesota

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### *For White Vinifera Wine:*

Aurora Cellars Riesling Dry 2020 Leelanau Peninsula  
Aurora Cellars Gewürztraminer Medium Sweet 2020 Leelanau Peninsula  
Aurora Cellars Grüner Veltliner 2020 Leelanau Peninsula  
Dos Cabezas Wineworks White 2020 Willcox, Arizona  
Eberle Winery Viognier 2020 Paso Robles  
Fox Run Vineyards Riesling Reserve 2019 Seneca Lake/Finger Lakes  
Left Foot Charley Le Caban Riesling 2019 Old Mission Peninsula

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### *For Rosé Wine:*

Stone Pillar Vineyard Redneck Rosé nv Kansas

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### *For Red Vinifera Wine:*

Alexander Valley Vineyards Cyrus 2015 Alexander Valley  
Amigoni Urban Winery Urban Drover 2018 Lodi  
Bookcliff Vineyards Crescendo 2019 Colorado  
Camaraderie Cellars Grenache LeTendre Vineyard 2018 Yakima Valley  
Dr. Konstantin Frank Saperavi 2019 Finger Lakes  
Eberle Winery Cabernet Sauvignon Vineyard Selection 2018 Paso Robles  
Pedernales Cellars Texas GSM Mélange 2017 Texas  
Spicewood Vineyards Syrah 2017 Texas Hill Country

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### *For Red Non-Vinifera Wine:*

Blue Sky Vineyard Chambourcin Reserve 2017 Shawnee Hills  
Stone Hill Winery Ozark Hellbender 2019 Ozark Mountain  
Stone Hill Winery Norton 2018 Hermann

JOLO Winery and Vineyards Pilot Fog 2019 Yadkin Valley

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*For Fruit, Dessert and Fortified Wine:*

Adam Puchta Winery Jazzberry nv Missouri

Two K Farms Honeycrisp Ice nv Leelanau Peninsula

Cellardoor Winery Vin Doux Natural Marquette 2019

Stone Hill Winery Cream Sherry nv Missouri

Holy-Field Vineyards & Winery Late Harvest Vignoles nv Kansas

Gervasi Winery Sognata nv American

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