



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 twenty-third 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 2022 competition included wines from twenty-five states. At the end of the second day of this year's tasting, November 18, forty-one wines from ten 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 forty-one 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 forty-one prestigious Jefferson Cups, the Sweepstakes Awards for our competition, were awarded to twelve white wines, twenty red wines, five sparkling wines, 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 as winners, and rosé wines and a fruit wine. There were once again great examples of wine, both from vinifera and non-vinifera grapes.” Together with sixteen other Jefferson Cup nominated wines, these forty-one wines represent some of the most compelling wines made in America.

Although many expect California to dominate the awards, Jefferson Cups were won by eleven other states as well: Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, New York, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Ohio, Texas, Virginia and Washington. And reflective of changes in the world of wine, a constellation of grapes was included among the winners: Edelweiss, Syrah, Grenache, Chambourcin, Chardonel, Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Manseng, Vignoles, Riesling (in fact, three of them), LaCrescent, Traminette, Vignoles, and Norton.

Many people 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 2022. 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-Second Annual Jefferson Cup Invitational took place on November 17 and 18, 2022 in Mission, Kansas. The Jefferson Cup is a different sort of wine competition, in that it is an invitational in which five hundred and seventy-five wines are pre-selected which exemplify top viticulture and winemaking throughout America.

Out of five hundred seventy-five participating wines, the judges selected just ninety wines to receive Bronze Medals, honoring wines exemplary of their regions and varieties, two hundred seventy-four wines received Silver Medals, and the judges found eighty-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 fifty-seven Jefferson Cup Nominees included wines from fourteen states. They were tasted by the entire group of eighteen judges. Out of those honored wines, the judges collectively picked forty 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.

“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 2022 competition included wines from twenty-four 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 AngelFlight Central, the Jefferson Cup has raised nearly two million dollars.

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The 2022 JEFFERSON CUP winners are:

For Sparkling Wine or Mead:

Aurora Cellars Brut Rose nv Leelanau Peninsula
Barefoot Bubbly Brut Rose
Good Harbor Vineyards Blanc de Noirs Benjamin's Vineyard nv Leelanau Peninsula
St. Julian Wine Company Grü V nv Lake Michigan Shore

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For White Non-Vinifera Wine:

Prairie Berry Winery Wild Bill Edelweiss nv American
Adam Puchta Winery Chardone1 (2021) Missouri
Holy-Field Vineyard & Winery Vignoles (2021) Kansas
Dakota Vines Prairie Sky 2021 American
Adam Puchta Winery Traminette 2021 Missouri
Holy-Field Vineyard & Winery Valvin Muscat nv Kansas
Newport Vineyards Great White 2021 Rhode Island

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For White Vinifera Wine:

Vint Hill Craft Winery Petit Manseng "Madison" Covert Wineworks 2021 Virginia
Aurora Cellars Grüner Veltliner 2021 Leelanau Peninsula
St. Julian Wine Company Viognier Braganini Reserve 2021 Lake Michigan Shore
Aurora Cellars Medium Sweet Riesling 2018 Leelanau Peninsula
Brys Estate Vineyard Dry Riesling 2021 Old Mission Peninsula

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For Rosé Wine:

Good Harbor Vineyards Pinot Noir Rose 2021 Leelanau Peninsula

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For Red Vinifera Wine:

Knotty Vines Pinot Noir nv California
Kessler Haak Wines Pinot Noir Ohana 2017 Sta. Rita Hills
Sheldrake Point Winery Cabernet Franc 2020 Finger Lakes
Pedernales Cellars Grenache 2020 Texas High Plains
Fox Run Vineyard Lemberger 2020 Seneca Lake
Black Box Merlot nv California
The Walls River Rock Vineyard Mahana Syrah 2019 Walla Walla Valley
Eberle Winery Syrah Steinbeck Vineyard 2020 Paso Robles
Sean Minor Wines Nicole Marie 2021 North Coast
Pedernales Cellars Block Zero 2018 Bell Mountain
Ron Yates Friesen Blend 2019 Texas High Plains

Brian Carter Cellars Le Coursier 2018 Columbia Valley
Spicewood Vineyards Tandem 2019 Texas High Plains
Eberle Winery Zinfandel 2020 Paso Robles

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For Red Non-Vinifera Wine:

Bourgmont Winery Voyageur Rouge nv Kansas
Les Bourgeois Vineyards Jeunette Rouge nv American
Adam Puchta Winery Hunter's Red nv Missouri
Noboleis Vineyards Norton 2019 Augusta
Stone Hill Winery Norton 2019 Hermann
JOLO Winery and Vineyards Pilot Fog 2019 Yadkin Valley

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For Fruit, Dessert and Fortified Wine:

Two K Farms Honeycrisp Ice (2020) Leelanau Peninsula
Holy-Field Vineyard & Winery Late Harvest Vignoles nv Kansas
Sheldrake Point Winery Riesling Ice Wine 2019 Finger Lakes
Stone Hill Winery Cream Sherry nv Missouri

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