



Sonoma County Harvest Fair Amateur Wine Competition Guide

Open to Residents of the State of California



The Sonoma County Harvest Fair is pleased to announce it continues to partner with GENCO to produce the 2025 Amateur Wine Competition.

The Garage Enologists of Sonoma County (GENCO) is an organization of amateur winemakers that meets monthly in Healdsburg, CA. GENCO provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and information to promote viticulture as well as the production of quality wines. Meeting topics range from presentations by respected wine professionals to technical winemaking issues, explorations of worldwide wine regions and comparative tastings. For more information, please visit www.gencowinemakers.com

Entries Open:	July 1, 2025
Entries Close:	August 23, 2025
Wine Received:	August 25 thru August 29, 2025 <i>Bring or ship bottles to:</i> Sonoma County Harvest Fair Administration Building 1350 Bennett Valley Road Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Office Hours:	Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Judging:	Saturday, September 6 th , Showcase Café

Results will be available online at HarvestFair.org.

2025 Event:	HARVEST FAIR'S 50TH GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY! Sonoma County Harvest Fair Presents: Taste, Toast & Celebrate! Saturday, October 11th, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Wine Released:	2nd Bottle and tasting notes will be available for pickup Monday, October 13 th through Friday, October 17 th at the Fairgrounds Administration Building. <i>After November 1st, all leftover wines will be donated.</i>
Limit:	None
Entry Fee:	\$15.00 per entry. Each entry consists of two bottles.

Online Entries Accepted!!

Register and pay for your wine entries using our online entry system.
Print out your receipt and bring it with you when you drop off your bottles!

You can enter online <http://scfhar.fairwire.com>

2024 Amateur Wine Sweepstakes Winners

Finest Red Wine: Gianni, 2022 Zinfandel, Healdsburg

Finest White Wine: Bruce & Linda Hagen, 2023 Unoaked Chardonnay, Clarksburg

Danish System of Judging

Rules:

Medals offered per class: Gold Silver Bronze

1. An amateur is 21 years of age and over who does not have an enology degree, does not work in a winery in any winemaking capacity, and no part of his or her livelihood is derived from commercial wine production.
2. Exhibitors must register with their Full Name – you can also include your winery name in the designated field.
3. A written critique of each wine will be available to the exhibitor of the wine.
4. An entry consists of two bottles of your wine.
5. Entry label: Identify bottle using the GENCO template provided with exhibitor name, class number & year, wine type prior to delivery.
6. The judging bottles should not have a “cork topper” or foil. (Display and label contest bottle can be finished with foil top.)
7. Percent residual sugar in the wine must be listed on the entry form.
8. The fair reserves the right to combine classes if there are less than four (4) wines in a class.
9. Bottles will be displayed in the tasting pavilion; a ticket will be required to enter.
10. Exhibits that are not picked up within the release time will be discarded.

Amateur Wine Awards Offered

Finest Red Amateur Wine
Finest White Amateur Wine

Sparkling Wines

Class

- 01 All Sparkling Wines (please identify grape and % residual sugar)

White Wines

- 02 Sauvignon Blanc
- 03 Chardonnay
- 04 White Blends (please identify in description)
- 05 Any other white varietal (please identify grapes and % residual sugar)

Fruit Wines

- 06 All fruit wines (please identify fruit and % residual sugar)

Rosé Wines

- 07 Rosé Blends (please identify % residual sugar)
- 08 Varietal Rosé (please identify grape and % residual sugar)

Red Wines

- 09 Pinot Noir
- 10 Merlot
- 11 Cabernet Franc
- 12 Bordeaux Blends (Meritage, etc.)
- 13 Cabernet Sauvignon
- 14 Syrah
- 15 Petite Sirah
- 16 Other Rhône Types (e.g., Carignane, Mataro/Mourvèdre, including blends; please identify)
- 17 Sangiovese
- 18 Zinfandel
- 19 Petit Verdot
- 20 Malbec
- 21 Tempranillo
- 22 Primitivo
- 23 Tannat
- 24 Barbera
- 25 Other Red Varietals (please identify on entry form)
- 26 Other Red Blends (please identify)

Other

- 27 Late Harvest or Dessert Red
- 28 Late Harvest or Dessert White
- 29 Homemade Liqueurs

Fortified Wines

- 30 Angelica, Port, Sherry, etc. (please identify)

Amateur Wine Label Contest

Open to Amateur Wine Exhibitors

(Any wine entered with a label is automatically entered into this contest)

No Cash Awards Offered
American System of Judging

Rules:

1. Any amateur wine entry with a label is automatically considered in the Label Contest. Only those affixed on the bottle entered are eligible.
2. Label recognition will be awarded to the entrant of the wine, not to the designer of the label.
3. Automatic entry - no entry fee or pre-registration is required.
4. Traditional Amateur Wine Labels are judged on size, shape, composition, and general appearance.
5. Novelty Amateur Wine Label are judged on originality, humor, composition, and general appearance.
6. Each label must contain the following information:
 - a. Name of Winery or Winemaker
 - b. Variety
 - c. Vintage

Amateur Wine Novelty Label Awards

- First place Traditional Label, In memory of Warren Dutton
- First place Humorous Label