

Winners announced for 37th Annual San Francisco International Wine Competition

(August 8, 2017; San Francisco, Calif.)—Wine producers from around the world sent their best to San Francisco for the 37th Annual San Francisco International Wine Competition, held June 30 to July 2, 2017 at the Hotel Nikko. Long considered the largest and most influential international wine competition in the nation, this year's competition received over 4,300 wine entries coming from more than 30 countries. The full results may be found online, at www.sfwinecomp.com.

The San Francisco International Wine Competition was overseen by competition director and co-founder Anthony Dias Blue, one of the nation's most influential wine personalities and editor-in-chief of The Tasting Panel, The SOMM Journal and The Clever Root magazines. All wines were tasted under blind conditions by an all-star judging panel comprised of 58 top industry experts and tastemakers. The panel awarded Bronze, Silver or Gold medals to the best entries, with just 282 wines qualifying for the competition's highly-prestigious Double-Gold medal.

"The San Francisco International Wine Competition earned its position as the top wine competition because of the experience and integrity of the judging panel," says Director of Judging Tim McDonald, CSW. "Every entry starts with equal opportunity to prove itself, and only the very best emerge with medals."

As in prior years, this year's competition entries continued to mirror national trends. The biggest growth was seen in the rosé category, which brought in 25 percent more entries this year than in 2016, with the **Best Rosé** award going to Goose Watch Winery's 2016 Cabernet Franc Rosé. Entries from lesser-known grape varieties continued to increase in both quantity and quality. Petit Manseng received more than double the entries from last year, with Pearmund Cellars' 2016 Petit Manseng South River Vineyard bottling taking home the **Best in Show White** award. Mourvèdre also had a strong showing, with the **Best in Show Red** going to Jeff Rundquist Wines' 2015 Matar, R, Three Way Vineyard. The 2017 **Best in Show Sparkling** went to Gloria Ferrer Caves & Vineyards' 2008 Royal Cuvee, and **Best in Show Dessert** was awarded to Kopke's 1967 Colheita Port. Other top awards included **Tasting Panel Magazine's Winery of the Year**, which went to Francis Ford Coppola Winery; **André Tchelistcheff Winemakers of the Year**, which went to Swedish Hill Winery's Derek Wilber and Zach Pegram; and **Winery Portfolio of the Year**, which went to Deutsch Family Wines & Spirits.



Director of Judging, Tim McDonald, CSW

As a response to the growing diversity of submissions, this year the San Francisco International Wine Competition has awarded Best of Nation awards to wineries whose entries represented the best from their countries of origin. This year's recipients include: Trapiche (Argentina), Wolf Blass Wines (Australia), Cave Geisse (Brazil), Katarzyna Estate (Bulgaria), Inniskillin (Canada), Luis Felipe Edwards (Chile), Vican Rodinné Vinařství (Czech Republic), Champagne Collet (France), Azienda Agricola Durin (Italy), Mad Wine Kft (Hungary), Ippin (Japan), Monte Xanic

(Mexico), Mt. Beautiful (New Zealand), Kopke (Portugal), Perdeberg Winery (South Africa), Malaparte (Spain) and Kavaklidere (Turkey).



Wines were evaluated blind by leading experts

The San Francisco International Wine Competition judging panel was comprised of many of the wine industry's leading experts, including wine writers Virginie Boone (Wine Enthusiast), Jessie Birschbach-Sheldon (The SOMM Journal) and Leslie Sbrocco (Check, Please!); winery owners and winemakers such as Heidi Peterson Barrett (La Sirena Winery, Barrett & Barrett); and leading members of the trade such as Tim Marson, MW (Wine.com), Fred Dame, MS (Southern Wine & Spirits), Lars J. Leicht (Banfi Wines) and Kristina Spencer (Cost Plus World Market, Oakland).

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