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San Francisco International Wine Competition Announce Medal Winners from 36th Annual Competition

(July 1, 2016; San Francisco, Calif.)—The wine industry’s most acclaimed experts converged at the luxurious Hotel Nikko in downtown San Francisco on June 9-12 for the nation’s most prestigious international wine competition. After blind tasting 4,618 wines submitted from around the world, the San Francisco International Wine Competition (SFIWC) today announced medal winners from its 36th annual competition. A complete list of winners is available on the San Francisco International Wine Competition's website: www.sfwinecomp.com

“Winning a Gold Medal at the San Francisco International Wine Competition immediately puts a wine in approximately the top 10%,” says Director of Judging Tim McDonald, CSW. “Wines are tasted blind by a high quality panel of judges who come from all over the world to participate. If a wine is really good, we acknowledge it with an award.”

Several of the wine categories in the 2016 competition experienced growth this year. Overall, international wines made up a higher portion of entries, with Spain, Italy and Hungary seeing the biggest increases over 2015. Mirroring industry sales trends, rosé entries increased from 128 submissions in 2015 to 175 submissions this year. The 2016 competition also saw growth in the quality of wines submitted. This year, the prestigious Double Gold Medal was awarded to 279 wines, representing a 9% increase over last year. The most significant change occurred with the number of Double Gold Medals awarded to Cabernet, which increased from 36 to 51 recipients.



*San Francisco International Wine
Competition Director of Judging Tim
McDonald, CSW and Executive Director
Anthony Dias Blue*

“Over the 36 years we’ve hosted this competition, we’ve seen wine quality improve every year,” says competition Executive Director and Co-Founder Anthony Dias Blue. “With more and more wines being made in every corner of the globe, I believe there is no better place to identify the great ones than at the San Francisco International Wine Competition.”



*Competition judge Clarice Turner, Starbucks
SVP Food & Evenings America*

The Best in Show Awards, chosen from among the Best of Class winners, saw a notable Texas win for **Best in Show White**, which went to McPherson Cellars 2015 Piquepoul Blanc, Timmons Ranch, Texas, USA. For the first time since 2010 a domestic wine, Gloria Ferrer Winery NV Blanc de Noirs, Carneros, Sonoma, USA, took the title of **Best in Show Sparkling**. The award for **Best in Show Red** went to Cru 2014 Pinot Noir, Santa Maria Valley, USA and **Best in Show Dessert** went to Kopke 1957 Colheita Port, Porto DOC, Portugal.

“Wine is an extremely competitive product, and being judged by industry tastemakers and receiving a top award here at the San Francisco

International Wine Competition can help a wine stand out amongst its peers,” says wine writer, blogger and competition judge Joe Roberts.

Other top awards include **Tasting Panel Magazine Winery of the Year** which went to J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines; **André Tchelistcheff Winemakers of the Year** went to Gloria Ferrer Caves & Vineyards winemaking team members Mike Crumly (VP of Production), Bob Iantosca (Executive Winemaker) and Steve Urberg (Winemaker); and **Winery Portfolio** of the Year went to Constellation Brands.

This year’s judging panel saw several returning experts, as well as the addition of a few new faces. Judges making their first appearance include: Ian Blackburn (WineLA, Los Angeles, CA), Lulu McAllister (Nopa, Nopalito and Liholiho Yacht Club, San Francisco, CA), Clarice Turner (Starbucks, Seattle, WA), Nadia Pavlevska (NP Wine Consulting, Los Angeles, CA), Leon Cikota (Republic National Distributing Company, Grand Prairie, TX), Joe Petraglia (Young’s Market Company, San Francisco, CA) and Michael Ploetz (Finn town by Ryan Scott, San Francisco, CA).

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