



OC Fair

2009 Homewine Competition



Co-sponsored by the Orange County Wine Society
P.O. Box 11059, Costa Mesa, CA 92627 (714) 708-1636 FAX (714) 546-5002

THE COMPETITION

The annual OC Fair Homewine Competition was held June 13, 2009, and is celebrating its 33rd year as one of the top amateur wine competitions in California. The competition is co-sponsored by the Orange County Wine Society in conjunction with the Orange County Fair and is open to all residents in California.

THE AWARDS

There were 177 winemakers from all parts of California who entered a total of 663 wines. In all, they garnished 593 awards, which consisted of 4 "Best of Show," 24 Double-Gold, 78 Gold, 210 Silver, 199 Bronze, and 82 Honorable Mention categories.

In addition, Award Certificates were given for the Wine Label Competition winners. The "Best of Show" wine winners received a specially engraved plaque. All Double-Gold winners receive double-gold ribbons and are judged for the "Best of Show" awards. The award winning wines will be on display at the Homewine Competition exhibit, in the Wine Courtyard, during the Fair, from July 10 – August 9, 2009.

A complete list of award winners and competition photos may be found on our website at www.ocws.org under 2009 Homewine Competition Results, or may be mailed to you upon request. Address your request to: Jim Graver at winemaster72@earthlink.net or (949) 581-9599.

"BEST OF SHOW WINE WINNERS"

White Wine – Lance Gillett – Encinitas – 2008 Viognier

Red Wine – Jack Preston – Templeton – 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon

Fruit Wine – Rex Johnston/Barbara Bentley – Walnut Creek – 2008 Red Raspberry

Dessert Wine – Rex Johnston/Barbara Bentley – Walnut Creek – 2008 Late Harvest Gewarztraminer

THE JUDGES & STEWARDS

This year there were a total of 86 judges with several traveling from Northern California. They served on 25 panels with three judges per panel and were selected by the Judging Chairman based upon prior experience and ability. More than 60% of the judges have served more than five years, and 27% have served more than 10 years. Each year several new judges are invited to serve as the fourth member of the panel along with the three experienced judges. There were 80 volunteer stewards and staff that assisted with the competition with many of them serving 10 years or more.

THE JUDGING

The judging is performed "double-blind"; neither the stewards nor the judging panels have any knowledge of the identity of the individual wines being evaluated. Scoring is done using a modified 20-point rating system. Each wine is evaluated on such attributes as clarity, depth of color, viscosity, general appeal, aroma & bouquet, sweetness, tannin, acidity, body, balance and overall quality.

“BEST OF SHOW” LABEL WINNER

Barry Reeves – Whimsical

WINE LABEL COMPETITION

There were 68 entries in this year's wine label competition that were judged based upon creativity, design, originality and professionalism. The categories were Elegant Design, Fruit, Grapes & Leaves, Botanical, Whimsical, Modern Design, Thematic, People, Scenic Name Representation, Foil & Embossing, Wildlife, Crests & Emblems and Best Use of Color.

Award Certificates were designed so that you may attach your wine label to the Certificate for mounting or framing or just putting in a drawer somewhere. Based on the number of awards, almost all wine labels were excellent. There were even more labels that were on the competition bottles that were not entered in the Label competition that were also outstanding and made a colorful display at the Homewine Exhibit at this year's Orange County Fair. It is a tribute to the time and effort which the winemakers expend in designing and producing these wine labels.

“WINEMAKER’S BRUNCH”

The “Competition Brunch” will be held July 25th during the OC Fair from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. to recognize the winemakers who entered the competition. This will be an opportunity to meet your fellow winemakers, talk about your wines and how they were made, share your experiences, and taste many of the award-winning wines. We had about 48 people who attended last year. This year it will be held during the Fair, and a Fair pass will be provided along with a parking pass. After the brunch, the winemakers may enjoy the rest of the Fair and entertainment. If you would like a reservation, please send an E-Mail to Jim Graver at winemaster72@earthlink.net for an invitation.

“COMPETITION WINE & LABEL DISPLAY”

A special display showcased the Homewine Competition Award Winners and a display of the winning wine labels along with photos of the competition.

2009 COMPETITION COMMITTEE

JIM GRAVER
Competition Chairman

KIM ZUERLEIN
Asst. Competition Chairman

PATTY WILLIS
Asst. Competition Chairman

RICH McCORMICK
Judging Chairman

ROB & GERMAINE ROMANO
Chief Stewards

BOB MILLER
Wine Administrator

ED & ROBIN SZUBIELSKI
Scoring Chairmen

RICH SKOCZYLAS
Food Chairman

RICH VEAGUE
Asst. Wine Administrator

STAN MATSUI
Asst. Scoring Chairman

JIM GRAVER/RICH VEAGUE
Fair Exhibit

PAT MATZKE/ KIM PLACEK
Reception/Check-in