



El Dorado County Fair & Event Center  
100 Placerville Drive  
Placerville, CA 95667

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

**El Dorado County Fair**  
OPEN WINE COMPETITION

**Enter Today!**

35<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
**El Dorado County Fair**  
OPEN WINE COMPETITION



FEATURING OUR  
**BACK ROOM GOLD AWARDS**  
UNIQUE TO EL DORADO COUNTY FAIR  
Best Zinfandel, Best Red Wine, and Best White Wine  
Awarded by Back Room staff—a true *"People's Choice"* award

Held in El Dorado Wine Country—  
OPEN TO ALL Commercial Wineries

Entries due on or before March 11, 2024

Early Bird by February 19

Questions? Call 530.621.5860

# NEW DATE!

## 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL El Dorado County Fair OPEN WINE COMPETITION March 22, 2024



### Sparkling Wine

1. Brut, Blanc de Blanc, Blanc de Noir \$15.00 & higher\*
2. All Other \$15.00 and higher (*Fruit, Moscato, etc.*)\*
3. Any Sparkling under \$15.00

### White Wine

4. Sauvignon Blanc
5. Pinot Gris/Pinot Grigio
6. Chardonnay \$15.00 and under
7. Chardonnay \$15.01 to \$25.00
8. Chardonnay \$25.01 and higher
9. Riesling
10. Viognier
11. Marsanne/Roussanne\*
12. Semillon
13. Chenin Blanc
14. Other White Rhone Varietal\*
15. White Rhone Blend – 70%\*
16. Other White Wine under \$15.00\*
17. Other White Wine \$15.00 and higher\*
18. White Blend\*

### Non-Grape Fruit Wine

19. Any Wine (*please specify fruit*)

### Rosé Wine

20. Rhone Rosé\*
21. Dry Rosé - .9% RS or lower
22. Rosé - 1% RS or higher

### Rhone Wine Description

Wines entered in these categories must contain 70% of one or more of the following Rhone Cepages:

Syrah	Roussanne	Mourvedre
Cinsault	Grenache	Muscardin
Counoise	Bourboulenc	Marsanne
Vaccarese	Viognier	Clairette
Terret Noir	Petite Sirah	Carignane

### Red Wine

23. Pinot Noir
24. Zinfandel \$15.00 and under
25. Zinfandel \$15.01 to \$25.00
26. Zinfandel \$25.01 and higher
27. Old Vine Zinfandel
28. Primitivo
29. Sangiovese
30. Barbera \$20.00 and under
31. Barbera \$20.01 and higher
32. Nebbiolo
33. Italian Red Blend\* or other Italian Red Varietal\*
34. Syrah \$22.00 and under
35. Syrah \$22.01 to \$27.00
36. Syrah \$27.01 and higher
37. Petite Sirah \$20.00 and under
38. Petite Sirah \$20.01 to \$30.00
39. Petite Sirah \$30.01 and higher
40. Mourvèdre
41. Other Red Rhone Varietal\*
42. Red Rhone Blend\*
43. Merlot \$15.00 and under
44. Merlot \$15.01 to \$25.00
45. Merlot \$25.01 and higher
46. Cabernet Sauvignon \$15.00 and under
47. Cabernet Sauvignon \$15.01 to \$25
48. Cabernet Sauvignon \$25.01 to \$40.00
49. Cabernet Sauvignon \$40.01 and higher
50. Cabernet Franc
51. Petit Verdot
52. Malbec under \$15.00 and under
53. Malbec \$15.01 and higher
54. Bordeaux Blend\*  
*Must be two or more of the following varieties: Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Petit Verdot, Malbec, Saint Macaire, Gross Verdot and Carménère (please specify)*
55. Tempranillo
56. Other Varietal Red Wine\*
57. Cabernet Sauvignon Based Blends\*
58. Zinfandel Based Blends\*
59. Other Red Blends under \$15.00\*
60. Other Red Blends \$15.00 and higher\*

### Sweet Wines

61. White Dessert \$15.00 and higher\*
62. Red Dessert \$15.00 and higher\*
63. Port//Fortified Wine \$15.00 and higher\*
64. Other Dessert \$15.00 and higher\*
65. Any Sweet/Dessert under \$15.00\*

*\*Please specify varietal or blend and percentages*

# 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL El Dorado County Fair OPEN WINE COMPETITION

Entry forms and wine received at Fair Office:

## Last Call Entries Due by March 11, 2024

Monday thru Friday 9am to 4pm

Judging: Friday, March 22 at 9am (*not open to the public*)

### CASUAL AWARDS PRESENTATION WITH LIGHT APPETIZERS AND WINE TASTING

**FRIDAY, MARCH 22 AT 6PM FOLLOWING JUDGING**

Purchase tickets at Fair office or on entry form

(\$15 per person for participating wineries.)

## Open to All Commercial Wineries

Thirty prestigious experts from around the country come together to judge these wines each year. Each panel consists of one judge from each industry: Education (winemaker, enologist, professor), Media (newspaper, blog, radio), Wine Sales (Restaurant, Retail, Hospitality).

*No cash awards • Medals only*

**Early Bird Entry: \$45 per wine.  
Forms due February 19, wine by March 11.**

**Last Call: \$55 per wine.  
Entry forms and wine due by March 11.**

Entries become the property of El Dorado County Fair and will not be returned. Judges will award Double Gold, Gold, Silver, Bronze, as well as Special Awards (*listed to the right*).

All wines received will be stored in a temperature-controlled room prior to judging.

Wine must be bottled under bond by commercial winery.

Entries must be commercially labeled.

Barrel samples are **NOT** allowed.

Each entry consists of four (4) bottles of wine (750 ml), five (5) bottles of wine (500 ml), or five (5) bottles of wine (375 ml).

**STATE RULES APPLY**

100 Placerville Drive, Placerville, CA 95667

Phone: 530-621-5860

Email: [fair@eldoradocountyfair.org](mailto:fair@eldoradocountyfair.org)

Rules and additional forms are available  
at [eldoradocountyfair.org/commercial-wine.html](http://eldoradocountyfair.org/commercial-wine.html)

## Special Awards

**BEST OF SHOW**

**GOLDEN JOHNNY TROPHIES**

for the Best of Show red wine,  
Best of Show white wine, and  
Best of Show sweet wine

**BEST OF CLASS**

awarded to classes that include  
a Gold award or higher.

**Unique to El Dorado County Fair:**

**BACK ROOM GOLD AWARDS**

Best Zinfandel, best red wine, and best  
white wine—awarded by Back Room  
staff, a true "People's Choice" award.

**BEST RHONE AWARDS**

Best red Rhone and best white Rhone

**BEST BARBERA AWARD**

**FRANK HERBERT MEMORIAL AWARD**

A perpetual award, sponsored by the  
*El Dorado Wine Grape Growers Association*,  
is offered for the best Zinfandel wine made  
from El Dorado or Fairplay appellation Grapes.

**EL DORADO WINE GRAPE GROWERS AWARD**

A special award, sponsored by the *El Dorado  
Wine Grape Growers Association* for the best  
commercial wine produced from El Dorado or  
Fairplay Appellation grapes. This award will be  
presented to both the winery and the vineyard.

**BEST OF EL DORADO: WINEMAKING**

A special award offered for the best wine *produced  
and bottled* by a winery in El Dorado County.

**BEST OF AMADOR: WINEMAKING**

A special award offered for the best wine *produced  
and bottled* by a winery in Amador County.

**BEST OF PLACER: WINEMAKING**

A special award offered for the best wine *produced  
and bottled* by a winery in Placer County.

**BEST OF LODI: WINEMAKING**

A special award offered for the best wine *produced  
and bottled* by a winery in the Lodi area.

**BEST OF NEVADA CO: WINEMAKING**

A special award offered for the best wine *produced  
and bottled* by a winery in Nevada County.

**BEST OF SONOMA CO: WINEMAKING**

A special award offered for the best wine *produced  
and bottled* by a winery in Sonoma County.

**BEST OF NAPA CO: WINEMAKING**

A special award offered for the best wine *produced  
and bottled* by a winery in Napa County.

**BEST OF SAN LUIS OBISPO CO: WINEMAKING**

A special award offered for the best wine *produced  
and bottled* by a winery in SLO County.

