



Best of the Blends Rules & Entry Information May 13 & 14, 2024

NO ENTRY FEE

The following constitutes one entry

- Six (6) 750ml bottles or equivalent
- Six (6) 375ml or equivalent (Port/Dessert)

ENTRY DEADLINE: APRIL 26, 2024

Two EASY ways to enter:

ONLINE

<https://enofileonline.com/landing.aspx?competitionID=2989>

OR EMAIL REQUEST FOR PAPER ENTRY FORM

wine@alamedacountyfair.com

Mail forms to:

Alameda County Fair
Attn: Wine Competition
4501 Pleasanton Avenue
Pleasanton, CA
94566

DELIVER WINE BY MAY 3, 2024

Deliver or ship wine bottles to:
Alameda County Fair
Attn: Commercial Wine Competition
4501 Pleasanton Avenue
Pleasanton, CA 94566

If delivering in person, wine entries will only be accepted
Monday-Friday between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Questions: wine@alamedacountyfair.com or (925) 426-7611



Best of the Blends

Rules & Entry Information

May 13 & 14, 2024

Competition Rules (All State and Local Rules Apply)

- 1) The Best of the Blends is OPEN to ALL U.S. wineries producing red and white Blends including Dessert & Rose blends. This NEW competition is held in conjunction with the Alameda County, Zin Challenge, and Sauvignon Summit Wine Competitions held at the Alameda County Fair.
- 2) Wines entered must be available for sale at the time of the competition.
- 3) All U.S. produced Blends must have their label of commerce attached and comply with county and state requirements. Only TTB (Tax and Trade Bureau) approved labels will be accepted. Wine delivered not meeting state, local, and department rules become the responsibility of winery to be picked up within two (2) weeks of receipt of entry.
- 4) **LIMIT OF ENTRIES:** No limit on the number of entries. While each wine may only be entered once, any participant may enter more than one wine in each category. Examples are wineries that produce several wines of the same varietal type, but with different vineyard designations, vintage, and non-vintage bottling, standard and reserve bottling, etc.
 - a) Entries must be listed by category on the official entry form and must be complete in every detail. If know, the percentage of each varietal must be listed. By signing the entry form, the entrant certifies that all statements on entry form are true and correct in all aspects. Violations will result in disqualification of all awards.
- 5) The Fair Association reserves the right to refuse any entry or refuse to display any entry considered not to be in accordance with the rules of entry or in the best interests of the Fair.
- 6) **JUDGING:** The Best of the Blends offer wineries an opportunity to have their wines judged by panels of three (3) experienced and qualified judges chosen from the wine industry, wine journalism, & wine trade.
 - a) Judges taste wines independently, in flights, using a hedonic approach. The judges will have no knowledge of the identity of the wines, except for vintage and percentage of each varietal type. Certain wines may be judged according to price.
 - b) The chairman will instruct the judges to pay particular attention to characteristics in a wine that may not be as dominant in concentration and power as other wines in the same category.
 - c) If there are fewer than three entries in a category, they may be judged in appropriate groups. The Chairman of Commercial Wine Judging will be fully responsible for determining in which category a wine is to be entered. The chairman will instruct the judges to pay particular attention to characteristics and component balance in a wine in order to give those traits as much consideration as those of dominant concentration and power. The wines are separated into categories according to type, degree of residual sugar, and price.
- 7) **SCORING SYSTEM:** The Best of the Blends scores each wine on its own merits, individually within its classification and flight. The components scored will be as follows: appearance and color, aroma and bouquet, total acid, flavor and body, and overall quality. A judge's scoring and rating are recorded, verified by all panel members, and then tallied by computer.
- 8) **AWARDS:** Awards will be made on a merit basis. The judges are instructed to grant no award when, in their opinion, wines do not meet basic criteria. Within each category, the judges may award these medals: Gold, Silver, Bronze. Additionally, a Best of Show will be selected from the Gold Medal winners.

BLENDS DIVISION 1610

OPEN to ALL commercially bonded wineries in THE US.

RED BLENDS

CLASS

1. BORDEAUX VARIETALS
2. RHONE VARIETALS
3. ITALIAN VARIETALS
4. SPANISH VARIETALS
5. OTHER RED VARIETALS

DESSERT BLENDS

CLASS

6. DESSERTS

WHITE BLENDS

CLASS

7. RHONE VARIETALS
8. OTHER WHITE VARIETALS

ROSE' BLENDS

CLASS

9. ROSE'