

# 2021 Press Democrat North Coast Wine Challenge

Santa Rosa, CA April 06, 2021

## Best of the Best

|                        |   |  |                  |    |   |
|------------------------|---|--|------------------|----|---|
| Sonoma-Cutrer Vineyard | 2014 Sonoma Cutrer Vineyards<br>Grand Cuvee Methode Traditionelle | Sonoma County,<br>Russian River Valley | Late<br>Disgorge | 99 | This has got everything.<br>Green apple, quince<br>paste. layers of flavor.<br>Honeysuckle, hint of<br>butterscotch, lemon<br>curd, Very well made,<br>Creme brulee |
|------------------------|---|--|------------------|----|---|

## Best of Lake County

|                          |  |             |   |    |  |
|--------------------------|--|-------------|---|----|--|
| Brassfield Estate Winery | 2020 Brassfield Estate Winery<br>Sauvignon Blanc | High Valley | Estate<br>Grown,<br>Produced<br>and Bottled | 97 | Citrus,outdoorsy<br>quality,floral,fresh<br>spice. |
|--------------------------|--|-------------|---|----|--|

## Best of Mendocino County

|                   |                                 |                 |                 |                   |    |  |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|----|--|
| Navarro Vineyards | 2019 Navarro Vineyards Riesling | Anderson Valley | Late<br>Harvest | Cluster<br>Select | 98 | Very delicate on the<br>nose, very rich on the<br>palate |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|----|--|

## Best of Napa County

|                       |                       |          |                |    |   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------|----------------|----|---|
| Michael Pozzan Winery | 2018 Pozzan Zinfandel | Oakville | Barrel<br>Aged | 98 | Great pepper, spice,<br>cartwheels on palate. |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------|----------------|----|---|

## Best of Show - Mead

|                  |  |                         |                         |                     |    |  |
|------------------|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|----|--|
| McGee's Mead LLC | NV McGee's Mead Co Honey de los<br>Muertos | Napa Valley, St. Helena | Unoaked &<br>Unfiltered | Mead/Hon<br>ey wine | 94 | Masterfully integrated<br>flavors of apple,lime<br>peel & hibiscus with<br>subtle notes of honey,a<br>note of desirable<br>bitterness. Presents<br>like an Italian apertif-<br>balanced,neither boozy<br>nor overly sweet<br>w/subtle spike and<br>fresh apple on the<br>finish. |
|------------------|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|----|--|

## Best of Show Cider

|                       |  |                 |                                 |           |    |  |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----------|----|--|
| Gowans Heirloom Cider | NV Gowans Heirloom Cider<br>Heirloom Apple Cider | Anderson Valley | Estate<br>Bottled &<br>Produced | Petillant | 95 | Green apple, off dry,<br>textural, crisp finish,<br>fresh, spritzzy. |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----------|----|--|

## Best of Show Dessert/Late Harvest

|                   |                                 |                 |                 |                   |    |  |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|----|--|
| Navarro Vineyards | 2019 Navarro Vineyards Riesling | Anderson Valley | Late<br>Harvest | Cluster<br>Select | 98 | Very delicate on the<br>nose, very rich on the<br>palate |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|----|--|

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## Best of Show Fruit

|                   |                        |               |  |    |                              |
|-------------------|------------------------|---------------|--|----|------------------------------|
| Mimosa Royale LLC | NV Mimosa Royale Berry | Sonoma County |  | 96 | Lush,fresh,delicate,vanilla. |
|-------------------|------------------------|---------------|--|----|------------------------------|

## Best of Show Red Wine

|                        |   |                      |                                 |    |   |
|------------------------|---|----------------------|---------------------------------|----|---|
| Sonoma-Cutrer Vineyard | 2018 Sonoma Cutrer Vineyards<br>Russian River Valley Pinot Noir | Russian River Valley | Grown,<br>Vinted and<br>Bottled | 99 | Richness of fruit, cloves<br>and dry herbs. |
|------------------------|---|----------------------|---------------------------------|----|---|

## Best of Show Rosé Wine

|            |                                  |                |                  |    |  |
|------------|----------------------------------|----------------|------------------|----|--|
| Grey Stack | 2020 Four Brothers Vineyard Rose | Bennett Valley | Four<br>Brothers | 98 | Flowery, Zesty acidity;<br>spicy; Pretty and<br>delicate |
|------------|----------------------------------|----------------|------------------|----|--|

## Best of Show Sparkling Wine

|                        |   |  |                  |    |   |
|------------------------|---|--|------------------|----|---|
| Sonoma-Cutrer Vineyard | 2014 Sonoma Cutrer Vineyards<br>Grand Cuvee Methode Traditionelle | Sonoma County,<br>Russian River Valley | Late<br>Disgorge | 99 | This has got everything.<br>Green apple, quince<br>paste. layers of flavor.<br>Honeysuckle, hint of<br>butterscotch, lemon<br>curd, Very well made,<br>Creme brulee |
|------------------------|---|--|------------------|----|---|

## Best of Show White Wine

|                              |  |                      |                 |                        |    |  |
|------------------------------|--|----------------------|-----------------|------------------------|----|--|
| Frostwatch Vineyard & Winery | 2018 Frostwatch Vineyard & Winery<br>2018 Frostwatch Vineyard & Winery<br>Chardonnay | Bennett Valley       | Estate<br>Grown | Sustainabl<br>y farmed | 98 | Vanilla, pineapple,<br>tropical fruit, white<br>floral, green apple. |
| Halleck Vineyard             | 2019 Halleck Vineyard Calandrelli<br>Vineyard  | Russian River Valley |                 |                        | 98 | Clean, fresh, bright,<br>true to type, perfumey,<br>flowery.         |

## Best of Solano County AVA

|                           |   |               |                |  |    |  |
|---------------------------|---|---------------|----------------|--|----|--|
| Vezer Family Vineyard LLC | 2019 Vezer Family Vineyard<br>Chardonnay / Arlene | Suisun Valley | Barrel<br>Aged |  | 96 | Lemon verbena,nice<br>acid,lime<br>oil,spices,ginger,checks<br>a lot of boxes. |
|---------------------------|---|---------------|----------------|--|----|--|

## Best of Sonoma County

|                        |   |  |                  |    |   |
|------------------------|---|--|------------------|----|---|
| Sonoma-Cutrer Vineyard | 2014 Sonoma Cutrer Vineyards<br>Grand Cuvee Methode Traditionelle | Sonoma County,<br>Russian River Valley | Late<br>Disgorge | 99 | This has got everything.<br>Green apple, quince<br>paste. layers of flavor.<br>Honeysuckle, hint of<br>butterscotch, lemon<br>curd, Very well made,<br>Creme brulee |
|------------------------|---|--|------------------|----|---|

## Best of Class

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|                                     |  |                                 |                                    |                         |   |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Amphora Winery                      | 2016 Amphora Petite Sirah                          | Dry Creek Valley                | Bevill/Wolcott Vineyard            | 97                      | Plush, rich, ripe, Petite Sirah on display.   |
| Amphora Winery                      | 2017 Amphora GSM                                   | Dry Creek Valley                | Aged in Tuscan clay amphorae       | 97                      | Berry pie in wild, wild west, earthy, meaty, chewy, Beethoven's 9th symphony, a prize fighter with a one, two punch.  |
| Beaucanon Estate                    | 2016 Longwood Estate Cabernet Franc Family Reserve | Napa Valley                     |                                    | 97                      | Savory & complex, great expectations, made to age, patience will be rewarded.   |
| Bee Hunter Wine                     | 2017 Bee Hunter Semillon Yorkville Highlands       | Yorkville Highlands             |                                    | 94                      | Hazelnut, age worthy, Anjou pear, citron, developing nicely.  |
| Boatique Winery                     | 2020 Boatique Winery Sauvignon Blanc               | Big Valley District             | Estate Bottled & Produced          | 96                      | "Revenge Vacation". Touch of warmth, floral kick, tropical, ripe fruit.   |
| Brassfield Estate Winery            | 2020 Brassfield Estate Winery Sauvignon Blanc      | High Valley                     | Estate Grown, Produced and Bottled | 97                      | Citrus, outdoorsy quality, floral, fresh spice.   |
| deLorimier Winery                   | 2017 deLorimier Winery Mosaic Meritage             | Alexander Valley, Sonoma County | Estate Bottled & Produced          | 95                      | Dried herbs, deep dark fruit.   |
| Domaine Carneros                    | 2017 Domaine Carneros Brut Rose                    | Carneros                        | Methode Traditionnele              | Estate Grown 98         | Lovely, nice acidity, classic Champenoise, beautiful structure, perfect rose wine, sultry aromas, great sparkler to read a "Raymond Chandler thriller with. |
| Eco Terreno Wines & Vineyards       | 2018 Eco Terreno Wines & Vineyards Cuvée Tierra    | Alexander Valley, Sonoma County |                                    | Red Blend 98            | Bright, Spicy, lively and bold  |
| Famighetti Vineyards                | 2017 Famighetti Vineyards La Famiglia              | Dry Creek Valley                | Single Vineyard                    | Famighetti Vineyards 98 | Spicy, wild flowers, bright.  |
| Ferrari-Carano Vineyards and Winery | 2020 Ferrari-Carano Pinot Grigio                   | Sonoma County                   |                                    | 94                      | Very rich, honey comp, honeysuckle, chamomile tea.  |
| Ferrari-Carano Vineyards and Winery | 2018 Ferrari-Carano Siena                          | Sonoma County                   |                                    | 98                      | Juicy, complex, "Saturday Night Date".  |

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| Foppiano Vineyards           | 2018 Foppiano Vineyards Della's Block Chardonnay | Russian River Valley                | Estate Bottled & Produced |                    | 97 | Lemon, peaches, melon, natural richness; Roasted almond on finish.   |
| Frostwatch Vineyard & Winery | 2018 Frostwatch Vineyard & Winery Chardonnay     | Bennett Valley                      | Estate Grown              | Sustainably farmed | 98 | Vanilla, pineapple, tropical fruit, white floral, green apple.   |
| GALLO                        | 2018 J Vineyards Pinot Noir                      | Russian River Valley                |                           |                    | 99 | Plump fruit, balanced complexity, wild strawberry. Beautiful fruit to develop over time  |
| Gowans Heirloom Cider        | NV Gowans Heirloom Cider Heirloom Apple Cider    | Anderson Valley                     | Estate Bottled & Produced | Petillant          | 95 | Green apple, off dry, textural, crisp finish, fresh, spritzzy.   |
| Gracianna Winery             | 2019 Gracianna Chardonnay                        | Sonoma County, Russian River Valley |                           |                    | 97 | Beautiful floral creaminess and acidity creates tension, weight and viscosity. A sleek lush wine that will impress your guests. One to serve when you want to divert the conversation when talking politics gets too heated. |
| Gracianna Winery             | 2019 Gracianna Pinot Noir                        | Russian River Valley                | Unfined & Unfiltered      | Lasaga Estate      | 99 | Sexy & seductive, "could put this as perfume behind my ears", beautiful aromatics, rose petals, cherry cola, raspberry.  |
| Grey Stack                   | 2020 Four Brothers Vineyard Rose                 | Bennett Valley                      |                           | Four Brothers      | 98 | Flowery, Zesty acidity; spicy; Pretty and delicate   |
| Halleck Vineyard             | 2019 Halleck Vineyard Calandrelli Vineyard       | Russian River Valley                |                           |                    | 98 | Clean, fresh, bright, true to type, perfumey, flowery.   |
| Halleck Vineyard             | 2017 Halleck Vineyard Pinot Noir, Clone 828      | Sonoma Coast                        |                           |                    | 98 | Beautiful Balance; Big fruit; Spicy palate   |
| Harts Desire Wines           | 2018 Harts Desire Wines Cabernet Sauvignon       | Alexander Valley                    |                           | King Vineyard      | 97 | Dusty violets, long finish, minty, roundness.  |

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|----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|----|---|
| Imagery Estate Winery            | 2018 Imagery Estate Winery Malbec, Upper Ridge Vineyard | Pine Mountain - Cloverdale Peak |                        |                   | 97 | Violets rich soft texture. Fruit driven   |
| J. Rickards Winery               | 2018 J. Rickards Winery Merlot                          | Alexander Valley, Sonoma County | Barrel Aged            |                   | 97 | Cherry,great pace & flow,will develop.  |
| Lawer Family Wines               | 2016 Lawer Estates Syrah                                | Sonoma Valley                   |                        | Betsy's Vineyard  | 97 | Rich, luxurious, dense, plush, mouth coating.   |
| Lawer Family Wines               | 2019 Lawer Estates Chardonnay                           | Knights Valley                  | Unoaked                | Cannon Block      | 97 | Wet stone, Meyer lemon.   |
| Ledson Winery and Vineyards      | 2017 Ledson Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve                  | Sonoma County, Alexander Valley | Estate Grown Reserve   |                   | 97 | Youthful, juicy berries, very savory with depth. Soft on the mid-palate.  |
| Lula Cellars                     | 2019 Lula Cellars Founder's Cuvée Pinot Noir            | Mendocino                       |                        |                   | 98 | Gorgeous Pinot Noir characteristics,dry & fresh fruit. Perfectly handled barrel aging,well rounded & polished.  |
| Materra   Cunat Family Vineyards | 2018 Materra   Cunat Family Vineyards Hidden Block      | Oak Knoll District              |                        |                   | 98 | Complex, classic Napa, long and elegant, great texture, velvety, black currant, "more please", tobacco.   |
| Mathis Wine                      | 2020 Mathis Wine Rosé de Grenache                       | Sonoma Valley                   | Estate Single Vineyard |                   | 97 | Juicy raspberry, white pepper, hint of stone fruit, brilliantly balanced, "summer in a glass".  |
| McGee's Mead LLC                 | NV McGee's Mead Co Honey de los Muertos                 | Napa Valley, St. Helena         | Unoaked & Unfiltered   | Mead/Honey wine   | 94 | Masterfully integrated flavors of apple,lime peel & hibiscus with subtle notes of honey,a note of desirable bitterness. Presents like an Italian aperitif-balanced,neither boozy nor overly sweet w/subtle spike and fresh apple on the finish. |
| Mengler Family Wines             | 2017 Mengler Family Wines Sangiovese                    | Russian River Valley            |                        | Alegria Vineyards | 98 | Classic Sangiovese, Italian style.  |
| Michael Pozzan Winery            | 2018 Pozzan Zinfandel                                   | Oakville                        | Barrel Aged            |                   | 98 | Great pepper, spice, cartwheels on palate.  |

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|-------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|----|---|
| Mimosa Royale LLC       | NV Mimosa Royale Berry  | Sonoma County                       |                           |                                   | 96 | Lush,fresh,delicate,vanilla.  |
| Miro Cellars            | 2019 Miro Cuvee Sasha   | Mendocino                           |                           | Chevalier Vineyard                | 98 | Beautiful sweet & sour cherry,very balanced, loads of baking spices, a WOW wine, stand up and say hello, mocha dust.                              |
| Navarro Vineyards       | 2019 Navarro Vineyards Riesling   | Anderson Valley                     | Late Harvest              | Cluster Select                    | 98 | Very delicate on the nose, very rich on the palate  |
| Papapietro Perry Winery | 2018 Papapietro Perry Winery Pommard Clones ~ Pinot Noir ~ Russian River Valley | Russian River Valley                |                           | Clonal                            | 96 | Elegant concentrated red fruit; Lifted palate, velvety tannins  |
| PEJU Winery             | 2018 Peju Old Victorian   | Napa Valley                         | Barrel Aged               |                                   | 95 | Complexity, like all pieces fit together, very concentrated.  |
| Peterson Winery         | 2019 Peterson Winery 3V White Blend   | Dry Creek Valley                    | Estate Bottled & Produced | Bradford Mountain Estate Vineyard | 95 | Sweet pea flavors, Meyer lemon, vibrant acidity, long lasting.  |
| Pezzi King Vineyards    | 2018 Pezzi King CHIMISE MOURVEDRE   | Dry Creek Valley                    | Single Vineyard           |                                   | 96 | Integrated mouth feel, rich and meaty on the palate, super texture of mocha and coco.   |
| Rockpile Vineyards      | 2016 Rockpile Vineyards Petit Verdot, Carriage House                            | Rockpile                            | Single Vineyard           |                                   | 97 | Brilliant flavorful palate; plum; rich structure; cocoa powder  |
| Russian River Vineyards | 2016 Russian River Vineyards Landy Cabernet                                     | Sonoma County, Russian River Valley |                           |                                   | 98 | Dark chocolate, good roasted coffee. Black olives. Restrained elegance.   |
| Sonoma-Cutrer Vineyard  | 2014 Sonoma Cutrer Vineyards Grand Cuvee Methode Traditionelle                  | Sonoma County, Russian River Valley |                           | Late Disgorge                     | 99 | This has got everything. Green apple, quince paste. layers of flavor. Honeysuckle, hint of butterscotch, lemon curd, Very well made, Creme brulee |
| Sonoma-Cutrer Vineyard  | 2018 Sonoma Cutrer Vineyards Late Harvest Chardonnay                            | Sonoma County, Russian River Valley |                           |                                   | 97 | Floral, complex. multi-layered, honeysuckle.  |

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| Sonoma-Cutrer Vineyard      | 2018 Sonoma Cutrer Vineyards Russian River Valley Pinot Noir | Russian River Valley            | Grown, Vinted and Bottled          | 99            | Richness of fruit, cloves and dry herbs.  |
| St. Anne's Crossing         | 2018 St. Anne's Crossing The Ranch Zinfandel                 | Dry Creek Valley                | The Ranch                          | 98            | Chocolate Lush; Cherry; Plush wine; The quintessential expression of zinfandel  |
| Taft Street Winery          | 2018 Taft Street grenache                                    | Russian River Valley            |                                    | 97            | Red flower petals, red fruit aromas, good acidity, first picking of red raspberry, gorgeous, a kiss of spring.  |
| The Meeker Vineyard         | 2020 The Meeker Vineyard Carbonic Dolcetto                   | Mendocino                       |                                    | 98            | Soft and rich. Beautiful fresh aromas of dolcetto. Very authentic Dolcetto. Like you are in your cellar in Piedmont. Pure aromas. Fresh and mouth filling |
| Trentadue Winery            | 2019 La Storia La Storia Petite Sirah                        | Alexander Valley, Sonoma County | Estate                             | 97            | Great mouth feel.   |
| Trione Vineyards and Winery | 2016 Trione Vineyards & Winery Primitivo                     | Sonoma County, Alexander Valley | Estate Grown, Produced and Bottled | Home Ranch 96 | Chewy, both earthy and rich berries, great nose, concentrated. "You could make a meal of it". Earthy, lots of layers, complex.                            |
| <u>Truett Hurst Winery</u>  | 2014 VML White Label Sparkling                               | Russian River Valley            |                                    | 99            | This is everything. Incredible brilliance. Brioche, apple, crushed oyster shell, complex, Rainier Cherry  |
| Ullage Consulting           | 2019 Gratus White Blend                                      | Napa County                     | Estate Grown                       | 91            | Baked apple, sweet fruit but balanced, clover apple, ripe apricot, porch pounder.   |
| Vezer Family Vineyard LLC   | 2019 Vezer Family Vineyard Chardonnay / Arlene               | Suisun Valley                   | Barrel Aged                        | 96            | Lemon verbena,nice acid,lime oil,spices,ginger,checks a lot of boxes.   |

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|                                   |   |           |                            |    |  |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------|----------------------------|----|--|
| <u>Wilson Winery of Dry Creek</u> | 2018 Wilson of Dry Creek / Florence                   | Zinfandel | Dry Creek Valley, Rockpile | 98 | Old style Zin, elegant & personality, perfectly balanced wine, wild west of Zin, rugged and yet silky. |
| <u>Wilson Winery of Dry Creek</u> | 2018 Wilson of Dry Creek / Sawyer                     | Zinfandel | Dry Creek Valley           | 97 | Ripe, floral, fresh ground pepper, classic Zinfandel.  |
| <u>Wilson Winery of Dry Creek</u> | 2017 Wilson of Dry Creek Sauvignon / Dry Creek Valley | Cabernet  | Dry Creek Valley           | 98 | Balance. Quaffable. Good fruit concentrate   |