2023 Press Democrat North Coast Wine Challenge

Santa Rosa, CA April 04, 2023

Best of the Best

Vaughn Duffy Wines	2021 Vaughn Duffy Wines Pinot Noir	Russian River Valley	Single Vineyard	Bacigalupi Vineyard	99	ripe watermelon. Textured, hits all the senses. Rich, floral, well made and complete.

Best of Lake County

Robledo Family Winery	2021 Robledo Selección Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon	Lake County, Red Hills	Estate Grown Reserve		99	To sweeps. Aromatic, licorice, eucalyptus, succulent, and seamless.

Best of Mendocino County

Roederer Estate	NV Scharffenberger Cellars Brut Excellence	Mendocino County	Methode Traditionnelle		99	Toasty, buttery, aged quality, sunshine in a glass, elegant, beautiful texture.

Best of Napa County

Sawyer Cellars	2018 Sawyer Cellars 2018 Merlot	Napa Valley			98	Great dynamic; floral aromatics; Plush mouthfeel. Dark anise notes

Best of Show Dessert/Late Harvest

La Prenda Wines	2020 Fifth Hill Sauvignon Blanc	Sonoma County, Sonoma Valley	Late Harvest		97	Stuff dreams are made of, luscious, satisfying, toe curling.

Best of Show Red Wine

Vaughn Duffy Wines	2021 Vaughn Duffy Wines Pinot Noir	Russian River Valley	Single Vineyard	Bacigalupi Vineyard	99	ripe watermelon. Textured, hits all the senses. Rich, floral, well made and complete.

Best of Show Rosé Wine

Rodney Strong Wine Estates	2022 Rodney Strong Vineyards Sonoma Coast Rosé of Pinot Noir	Sonoma Coast			98	Hints of peach, pear, and strawberry. Crisp, easy drinking.

Best of Show Sparkling Wine

Roederer Estate	NV Scharffenberger Cellars Brut Excellence	Mendocino County	Methode Traditionnelle		99	Toasty, buttery, aged quality, sunshine in a glass, elegant, beautiful texture.

2022 Press Democrat North Coast Wine Challenge

Santa Rosa, CA April 05, 2022

Best of Show White Wine

Husch Vineyards	2022 Husch Vineyards Gewurztraminer	Anderson Valley	Estate Bottled	Sustainably Farmed	99	Apricot, turpentine, spicy, textbook Gewurztraminer.

Best of Solano County AVA

Calazor Wine Co.	2020 CALAZOR Red Blend	Solano County	Barrel Aged	Proprietary, Single Vineyard	92	Very well integrated. Well balanced with a long clean finish.
Vezer Family Vineyard LLC	2021 Vezer Family Vineyard Blue Victorian Rose	Suisun Valley			92	Perfect pink wine, summertime sip.

Best of Sonoma County

Vaughn Duffy Wines	2021 Vaughn Duffy Wines Pinot Noir	Russian River Valley	Single Vineyard	Bacigalupi Vineyard	99	ripe watermelon. Textured, hits all the senses. Rich, floral, well made and complete.

Best of Class

Benziger Family Winery	2022 Benziger Family Winery de Coelo Pinot Noir Rosé	Sonoma County	Estate Bottled & Produced		97	Beautiful. Pitch perfect balance. Streak of strawberry that begins with it and ends with it.
Boisset Collection	2020 Raymond Vineyards Reserve Selection Merlot	Napa Valley			98	Black plum, smooth, varietal, velvety tannins, expresso, classic merlot, comfort wine to sip in front of a fireplace.
Boisset Collection	2020 Raymond Vineyards Reserve Selection Cabernet Sauvignon	Napa Valley			98	Opulent, hardy and full bodied.
Dancing Crow Vineyards	2022 Dancing Crow Vineyards Farmer's Cuvée	Lake County			97	Earthy yet bright, celery leaf.
Daylight Wine and Spirits	2021 Screen Door Chardonnay	Russian River Valley	Barrel Aged		99	Lemony, tangy, graphite. Mineral
Delicato Family Wines	2021 Francis Ford Coppola Diamond Collection Sonoma County Chardonnay	Sonoma County			97	Weight on back of the pallet. Juicy citrus, gracefully on point like a ballerina

2022 Press Democrat North Coast Wine Challenge

Santa Rosa, CA April 05, 2022

deLorimier Winery	2020 deLorimier Winery Primitivo	Alexander Valley, Sonoma County	Estate Grown, Produced and Bottled	Reserve	98	Plush and floral character, generous, really big dog that knocks you over and licks your face.
deLorimier Winery	2019 deLorimier Winery Cabernet Sauvignon	Rockpile	Estate Bottled Reserve	Rockpile Vineyard	98	dark fruit, cassis, mint, big chocolate
Dry Creek Vineyard	2022 Dry Creek Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc	Dry Creek Valley			98	Passionfruit, lime leaf, zestyoyster wine, complex-complete food wine-texture
EHRET Winery	2019 EHRET Winery Bella's Cabernet Sauvignon	Knights Valley		Bavarian Lion Vineyards	98	Sweet oak-pomegranate. Flavor and violet in nose. Blackberry-blueberry cedar tones.
Flambeaux Wine	2019 Flambeaux Cabernet Sauvignon	Dry Creek Valley			98	Beautiful, velvety, plummy, dense, unctuous expensive oak.
Florence Vineyard	2020 Florence Vineyard Zinfandel	Rockpile	Reserve	Sonoma County	97	Raspberry jam, nice acidity, inky color, seductive, fresh, rich.
Foley Family Wines	2018 Ferrari-Carano Trésor	Sonoma County			97	Big WOW wine, ripe blackberry, dark plum, olive tapenade, silky tannins.
Foley Family Wines	2021 Ferrari-Carano Siena	Sonoma County			98	Big complex, interesting, unique fruit cocktail with bold deep tannins, layering of fruit.
Furthermore Wines	2021 Furthermore Wines Sonoma Coast Riesling	Sonoma Coast	Estate Produced and Bottled		95	Delicate, floral, minerality, layered, balanced.
Gowans Heirloom Cider	NV Gowans Heirloom Cider Cider Macintosh	Mendocino			95	Bones dry, delicate bubbles, refreshing.
GrapeSeed Wines	2022 Sassoferrato Vermentino	Sonoma County, Russian River Valley	Single Vineyard		97	Asian pear, watermelon rind mouth watering
Husch Vineyards	2022 Husch Vineyards Gewurztraminer	Anderson Valley	Estate Bottled	Sustainably Farmed	99	Apricot, turpentine, spicy, textbook Gewurztraminer.

2022 Press Democrat North Coast Wine Challenge

Santa Rosa, CA April 05, 2022

Husch Vineyards	2022 Husch Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc	Mendocino		Sustainably Farmed	98	Crisp gorgeous acidity. A ferris wheel in my mouth. Mature and round like polished beach stones
Imagery Estate Winery	2020 Imagery Estate Winery Lagrein	Pine Mountain - Cloverdale Peak			96	Like a whole meal, meaty. Beautifully done!
Inman Family Wines	2021 Inman Family Pinot Gris	Sonoma County, Russian River Valley	Estate Grown and Produced	OGV Estate	96	Beeswax in the nose, honey mouth feel, lemon-lime zest, very balanced with nice minerality.
Jaxon Keys	2020 Jaxon Keys Syrah	Mendocino	Estate	Wilson Vineyards	96	Roast coffee, black boysenberry, rich, well balanced, complex, long persistent finish, nice concentration of berries, hint of black olives.
Jaxon Keys	2020 Jaxon Keys GPS	Mendocino	Estate		95	Rich tannin, gamey, purple flowers, Lavender, violet, dark fruit.
La Prenda Wines	2020 Fifth Hill Sauvignon Blanc	Sonoma County, Sonoma Valley	Late Harvest		97	Stuff dreams are made of, luscious, satisfying, toe curling.
Landmark Vineyards	2020 Landmark Vineyards Damaris Reserve Chardonnay	Sonoma Coast			98	Sex bomb, VA VA VOOM!, crystalized ginger.
Larson Family Winery	2019 Larson Family Winery Tempranillo	Sonoma Valley			98	Sophisticated, black fruit, great mouth feel, shameless.
Little Vineyards Family Winery	2020 Little Vineyards Zinfandel	Sonoma County, Sonoma Valley			98	Deep concentrated colors. Excellent fruit. Impeccably balanced.
Lobo Wines LLC	2021 Lobo Wines Chardonnay	Napa	Estate Single Vineyard	Wulff Vineyard	98	Well made. Intense oak. Interesting. Super balanced.
Matrix Winery	2020 Matrix Winery Sonoma County	Sonoma County	Barrel Aged		99	Really generous with the fruit. Elegant. This pinot is the "Everything, Everywhere, All at Once" pinot.

2022 Press Democrat North Coast Wine Challenge

Santa Rosa, CA April 05, 2022

Mazzocco Sonoma	2020 Mazzocco Sonoma Zinfandel Maria	Dry Creek Valley			98	Really delicious, bold blackberry aromas, savory edges, chewy texture.
Moondance Cellars/Orchard Station Winery	2019 Orchard Station Winery Chardonnay	Russian River Valley			97	Chamomile, peppery, nudge of bitter dried herbs.
Naidu Wines	2021 Naidu Wines Cabernet Franc	Sonoma Valley	Single Vineyard	Cassata Vineyard	96	Lychee, floral, purity, rich, fluffy, crowd pleasing, maintains varietal integrity.
Navarro Vineyards	2021 Navarro Vineyards Malbec Mendocino	Mendocino			93	Red fruit , vivid floral notes.
Navarro Vineyards	2022 Navarro Vineyards Rosé of Grenache, Mendocino	Mendocino			98	Delicate, floral, juicy, strawberry, "enchanting Southern Belle".
Pennyroyal Farm	2022 Pennyroyal Farm PinoTrio	Anderson Valley	Estate Grown & Bottled		97	Floral, pomegranate, white fruit. Floral quince. Sweet pea. Long sexy finish.
Pezzi King Vineyards	2020 Pezzi King Hunny Hill Reserve Zinfandel	Dry Creek Valley	Reserve		97	Crowd pleaser, very fruity, jammy, ripe fruit, hints of bittersweet chocolate, spicy.
Portalupi	2021 Portalupi Barbera, Pauli Ranch	Mendocino County	Barrel Aged	Pauli Ranch	95	Rich flavors, lovely finish, pretty expression of Barbera. Bursting with fruit flavors.
Quixote Winery	2020 Panza Red Wine	Stags Leap District	Estate Grown, Produced and Bottled		94	Substantial blend using petite syrah substance. inky. dark plum, cocoa powder, relatively complex.
RIVINO Estate Vineyards & Winery	2022 Rivino Viognier	Mendocino	Estate Grown, Produced and Bottled	RIVINO Ranch	97	White flowers, jasmine. Very floral. Wild spice component. Delicious wine that keeps you coming back for more.
Robledo Family Winery	2021 Robledo Selección Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon	Lake County, Red Hills	Estate Grown Reserve		99	To sweeps. Aromatic, licorice, eucalyptus, succulent, and seamless.

2022 Press Democrat North Coast Wine Challenge

Santa Rosa, CA April 05, 2022

Roche Winery & Vineyards	2021 Roche Brut Rose	Sonoma Valley	Methode Champenoise	98	Lovely stone fruit, white flowers. Lovely from start to finish.
Roche Winery & Vineyards	2021 Roche Chardonnay American Oak Reserve	Carneros		97	rich toasty. Nicely matches the oak and fruit. Citrus, tart apple, pineapple and lemon curd
Rock and Clay Wines LLC	2020 Rock and Clay Wines Tannat	Alexander Valley, Sonoma County	Single Vineyard	97	Dry, yet full bodied, black peppery and velvety texture.
Rodney Strong Wine Estates	2022 Rodney Strong Vineyards Sonoma Coast Rosé of Pinot Noir	Sonoma Coast		98	Hints of peach, pear, and strawberry. Crisp, easy drinking.
Rodney Strong Wine Estates	2017 Rodney Strong Vineyards Symmetry	Sonoma County		98	Bold and big. Rubenesque and lusty.
Roederer Estate	NV Scharffenberger Cellars Brut Excellence	Mendocino County	Methode Traditionnelle	99	Toasty, buttery, aged quality, sunshine in a glass, elegant, beautiful texture.
Roederer Estate	NV Scharffenberger Cellars Brut Rosé Excellence	Mendocino County	Methode Traditionnelle	97	Creamy with a great aftertaste. Apricot and pear on the finish.
Saini Vineyards	2021 Saini Vineyards Sangiovese	Dry Creek Valley	Estate	97	Structured, balanced, bright, cranberry, authenticity.
Sawyer Cellars	2018 Sawyer Cellars 2018 Merlot	Napa Valley		98	Great dynamic; floral aromatics; Plush mouthfeel. Dark anise notes
Selby Winery	2018 Selby Winery Grenache	Sonoma County, Dry Creek Valley		98	Savory, balanced. Nice acid. Super well made. Complexity. It's like the surf....crisp and sublime.
Soda Rock Winery	2020 Soda Rock Meritage	Sonoma County, Alexander Valley		99	Elegant and lovely like an old jaguar sedan. Lucious with gorgeous texture and a long sexy finish
St. Francis Winery & Vineyards	2021 St. Francis Sonoma County Pinot Noir	Sonoma County		97	Great color, balance, firm tannins and complex.

2022 Press Democrat North Coast Wine Challenge

Santa Rosa, CA April 05, 2022

Stuhlmuller Vineyards	2020 Stuhlmuller Vineyards Sonoma County Cabernet	Sonoma County			98	Solid Cabernet. Complex, Rutherford dust. Rusty; red fruits. Youthful.
Tongue Dancer Wines	2021 Tongue Dancer Wines Pinot Noir, Sonoma Coast	Sonoma Coast	Winemaker Select		99	Vivid, hold nothing back, harmonious, well balanced, last forever. really pretty.
Trecini Winery	2022 Trecini GRENACHE BLANC	Rockpile	Barrel Fermented	Branham Vineyard	96	Bright balanced party summer. Orchard fruit. Beautiful texture. Gorgeous finish.
Trentadue Winery	2020 La Storia Cuvee 32	Alexander Valley, Sonoma County	Estate		96	Nice combo of fruit and earthiness," heart of Italy in California.
Trentadue Winery	2020 La Storia La Storia Petite Sirah	Alexander Valley, Sonoma County	Estate		98	Rich, sweet blackberry, fills mouth with flavor, opulent.
Vaughn Duffy Wines	2021 Vaughn Duffy Wines Pinot Noir	Russian River Valley	Single Vineyard	Bacigalupi Vineyard	99	ripe watermelon. Textured, hits all the senses. Rich, floral, well made and complete.
Vaughn Duffy Wines	2021 Vaughn Duffy Wines Pinot Noir	Russian River Valley			98	Wild boysenberry, tremendous potential, good structure, dramatic, intense fruit seductive and still classic
Villein Wines	2021 Villein Pinot Noir	Mendocino County	Barrel Aged		98	Red cherry, blueberry, plump fruit, delicate yet creamy.
Wilson Winery of Dry Creek	2020 Wilson of Dry Creek Zinfandel/Nolan	Dry Creek Valley	Estate Grown & Bottled		97	Big, balanced, savory.
Wilson Winery of Dry Creek	2019 Wilson of Dry Creek Petite Verdot/Sydney	Dry Creek Valley	Estate Grown & Bottled		97	Super great nose. Yummy deep black fruit. Going to age better than any of us. Like James Dean but with a cause.

2022 Press Democrat North Coast Wine Challenge

Santa Rosa, CA April 05, 2022

Wilson Winery of Dry Creek	2020 Wilson of Dry Creek Zinfandel/Tombstone	Dry Creek Valley	Estate Grown & Bottled	96	Exciting. All up front. Stewed cherries with umami. A lot to unravel and exciting to go back to.