

# 2025 Press Democrat North Coast Wine Challenge

Santa Rosa, CA April 01, 2025

## Best of the Best

Fortunati Vineyards	2021 Fortunati Vineyards Signature Cabernet Sauvignon	Napa Valley, Oak Knoll District	Single Vineyard	99	Beautiful layers of dark fruit. Great cassis with purple violet fruit and earthy.
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## Best Cider

Gowans Heirloom Cider	NV Gowans Heirloom Cider Spiced Apple Cider.	Anderson Valley	Estate Grown, Produced and Bottled	Non-GMO, Gluten Free	97	Baking spices sensational and makes you smile
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## Best Dessert Wine

Sonoma-Cutrer Vineyard	2023 Sonoma Cutrer Vineyards Miel	Sonoma County, Russian River Valley		97	Traditional honey melon. Noble rot. Clean
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## Best of Lake County

R Vineyards	2023 R Vineyards Viognier	Lake County	Estate Vineyard	97	Honeysuckle and jasmine. Floral white rose petal. "Spring in a glass"
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## Best of Mendocino County

Graziano Family of Wines	2023 Graziano Chenin Blanc	Mendocino County	Barrel Fermented	97	Brilliant medley of kiwi. tart golden delicious apple. and citrus. Hint of petrol, herbs and minerals.
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## Best of Napa County

Fortunati Vineyards	2021 Fortunati Vineyards Signature Cabernet Sauvignon	Napa Valley, Oak Knoll District	Single Vineyard	99	Beautiful layers of dark fruit. Great cassis with purple violet fruit and earthy.
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## Best of Solano County AVA

Vezer Family Vineyard LLC	2023 Vezer Family Vineyard Verdelho / Franci	Suisun Valley	Estate	94	Charming, salty, tart, with a flowery finish. Hints of apple and papaya. Bright and complex
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## Best of Sonoma County

Deodora Wines	2019 Deodora Riesling	Sonoma Coast	Estate	99	Toast and dry apricots
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## Best Red

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Fortunati Vineyards	2021 Fortunati Vineyards Signature Cabernet Sauvignon	Napa Valley, Oak Knoll District	Single Vineyard	99	Beautiful layers of dark fruit. Great cassis with purple violet fruit and earthy.	
Best Rose						
Dot Wines LLC	2024 Dot Wine Rose of Pinot Noir	Russian River Valley	Certified Sustainable and Direct to press intentional rose	99	Ferris wheel of fun. White strawberry, red apple skin, rose petals, hibiscus, on the finish	
Best Sparkling						
CHANDON	NV CHANDON Etoile Brut	Los Carneros	Special Reserve	98	Creamy, biscuit on nose and complex. Pear, very concentrated flavor. Rich. Crowd pleaser.	
Best White						
Deodora Wines	2019 Deodora Riesling	Sonoma Coast	Estate	99	Toast and dry apricots	
Best of Class						
Bartholomew Estate Winery	2022 Bartholomew Estate Press Release	Sonoma Valley	Estate Grown	98	Mocha, black cherries.	
Calluna Vineyards	2023 Calluna Vineyards Calluna Estate Blanc	Chalk Hill	Estate Grown	97	Floral nose , lemon lime and guava, A hint of toasty oak. Big creamy pear, fig. Complex	
Domaine Della	2022 Domaine Della Russian River Valley Pinot Noir	Russian River Valley		98	Big red fruit, luxurious.	
Balletto Vineyards, Inc.	2021 Balletto Vineyards Pinot Noir - Russian River Valley	Russian River Valley	Estate Grown, Produced and Bottled	98	Violets and floral with great balance. This wine leaps out of the glass.	
Notre Vue Estate Wine Group	2021 Balverne Zinfandel	Chalk Hill	Grown, Produced and Bottled	Certified Sustainable	96	Complex, aromatic of spice and fruit. Delicious, bright and balanced.
Deodora Wines	2018 Deodora Early Cask Pinot Noir	Sonoma Coast	Estate Vineyard	99	True to varietal, well balanced, rich and lush.	

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Gracianna Winery	2023 Gracianna Mercedes Riverblock Estate Vineyard, Pinot Noir	Russian River Valley	Unfinied & Unfiltered	Mercedes Riverblock Estate Vineyard	98	Fruity, fun, approachable. Crowd pleaser. Grape forward. Well balanced .
Dot Wines LLC	2024 Dot Wine Nalu Sauvignon Blanc	Russian River Valley		Certified Sustainable and Vineyard Designate	99	Sincere quality. Great acid and juicy
<u>Dutcher Crossing Winery</u>	2022 Dutcher Crossing Winemakers' Cellar Chardonnay	Dry Creek Valley			96	Tropical notes. Flinty finish, good acid.
<u>Wilson Winery of Dry Creek</u>	2022 Wilson of Dry Creek Heartland	Dry Creek Valley	Single Vineyard Selection		97	Light floral aromatic. Concentrated raspberry with great minerality
Sonoma-Cutrer Vineyard	2023 Sonoma Cutrer Vineyards Miel	Sonoma County, Russian River Valley			97	Traditional honey melon. Noble rot. Clean
Bartholomew Estate Winery	2023 Bartholomew Estate Marsanne   Roussanne	Sonoma Valley		Fifth Hill Vineyard	98	Honeysuckle, candied ginger. Very voluptuous. Vivacious wine.
Dot Wines LLC	2024 Dot Wine Rose of Pinot Noir	Russian River Valley		Certified Sustainable and Direct to press intentional rose	99	Ferris wheel of fun. White strawberry, red apple skin, rose petals, hibiscus, on the finish
Balletto Vineyards, Inc.	2019 Balletto Vineyards Sparkling Brut Rose	Russian River Valley	Estate Grown, Produced and Bottled		97	Rich with character, elegant and sophisticated
Jaxon Keys	2022 Jaxon Keys Primitivo Michael's Reserve	Mendocino			94	Pretty spice, balanced, savory and fresh
Fortunati Vineyards	2021 Fortunati Vineyards Fortivo Proprietary Red Bordeaux Blend	Oak Knoll District	Vintage Selection		98	Smooth, rich, ripe, robust (the 3 "R's")
North Coast Wine Co.	2022 Outerbound Cabernet Sauvignon	Alexander Valley			97	Fresh herbal tea. Dried herbs.
Roche Winery & Vineyards	2023 Roche Nouveau Pinot Noir	Carneros			97	Yummylicious, sassy and very pretty. Gentle floral smooth finish. Aromatic.
Roche Winery & Vineyards	2022 Roche Pinot Noir Tipperary Vineyard Reserve	Carneros			97	Fresh bright and elegant

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Naked Wines -Schroeter	2024 Naked Wines Schroeter	Dry Creek Valley			98	Hint of minerality. Lemon, lime, grapefruit finale. Balanced, sophisticated.
Vaughn Duffy Wines	2023 Vaughn Duffy Wines Pinot Noir, Sangiacomo Vineyard	Petaluma Gap	Single Vineyard	Sangiacomo Vineyard	97	Floral violet garden. Vavoom! Screams Pinot Noir
Magito & Company	2022 Meadowcroft Wines Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon	Napa Valley			98	Juicy, rich, smooth, well rounded. Blackberry.
Sonoma-Cutrer Vineyard	2018 Sonoma Cutrer Vineyards Grand Cuvee Late Disgorge	Russian River			98	Beautiful with nutty notes, Nice balance, smooth on the palate with pear, and quince
Bedarra Vineyards	2022 Bedarra Vineyards Malbec	Alexander Valley, Sonoma County	Estate Grown		97	Blueberries, Marion berries, sweetness, milk chocolate. Crowd pleaser. Classic.
Bar None's Canyon	2021 Bar None's Canyon Cabernet Franc	Moon Mountain District	Estate Grown	Farmed sustainably, without herbicides/pesticides.	99	Good dimensional, lush, aromatic. Invites you in. Stellar wine!!
Pennyroyal Farm	2023 Pennyroyal Farm Anyhow Blanc	Anderson Valley	Estate Grown & Bottled		98	Lemon lime, minerality, this wine has finesse
Fortunati Vineyards	2021 Fortunati Vineyards Signature Cabernet Sauvignon	Napa Valley, Oak Knoll District	Single Vineyard		99	Beautiful layers of dark fruit. Great cassis with purple violet fruit and earthy.
Sequoia Grove Winery	2022 Sequoia Grove Winery Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon	Napa			97	Nice balanced oak. Concentrated berry, cherry.
D & L Carinalli Vineyards	2023 D & L Carinalli Vineyards Pinot Grigio	Russian River Valley	Estate Grown, Produced and Bottled	D & L Carinalli Vineyards	95	Citrus, light and bright.
Rodney Strong Wine Estates	2022 Rodney Strong Vineyards Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon	Alexander Valley			98	Coffee, menthol, dark cocoa. Great barrel. "Inviting like the embrace of an old friend"

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Rock and Clay Wines LLC	2021 Rock and Clay Wines Tannat	Alexander Valley, Sonoma County	Single Vineyard	Foley Family Vineyard	94	Excellent food wine. Grippy.
Foley Family Wines	2023 Chalk Hill Estate Chardonnay	Chalk Hill			98	Burgundian, clean, white flowers, minerality.
Gowans Heirloom Cider	NV Gowans Heirloom Cider Spiced Apple Cider.	Anderson Valley	Estate Grown, Produced and Bottled	Non-GMO, Gluten Free	97	Baking spices sensational and makes you smile
<u>Carol Shelton Wines</u>	2022 Carol Shelton Wines Rockpile Reserve Zinfandel	Rockpile	Reserve	Florence Vineyard	95	Juicy and balanced. Bright, zippy and elegant. Ripe berries. Easy to drink.
CHANDON	NV CHANDON Etoile Brut	Los Carneros	Special Reserve		98	Creamy, biscuit on nose and complex. Pear, very concentrated flavor. Rich. Crowd pleaser.
Dry Creek Vineyard	2022 Dry Creek Vineyard Old Vine Zinfandel	Dry Creek Valley			96	Fun well made Zinfandel. Appreciate the nuance in blending
Truett-Hurst	2023 Truett-Hurst Estate Petite Sirah Single Vineyard Collection	Dry Creek Valley	Estate			Perfect blueberry notes, classic petite sirrah. Plush with tension behind it. Block buster.
Furthermore Wines	2022 Furthermore Wines Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir	Petaluma Gap	Estate Bottled & Produced		98	Great cherry and loganberry, Floral like crushed rose petals. Delicate with nice structure.
McCarter Cellars	2023 McCarter Cellars Gewurztraminer	Russian River Valley	Single Vineyard	Balletto Vineyard	94	Honey spice, crenshaw melon floral
Bricoleur Vineyards LLC	2022 Bricoleur Vineyards Kick Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon	Fountaingrove District	Estate		98	Classic, dark cherry, lavish.
Lula Cellars	2022 Lula Cellars Ferrington Vineyard Pinot Noir	Anderson Valley			98	Aromatically awesome, great balance and lingering. Rock concert in mouth.

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<u>Carol Shelton Wines</u>	2015 Carol Shelton Wines Tawny Sonoma	Sonoma County			97	Sweet fresh baked raisin bread. Toasty oak, sandalwood, cedar and leather. Ginger
Guadagni Family Wines	2024 Guadagni Family Wines Danielle Grenache Rose	Dry Creek Valley			97	Juicy watermelon, cherry, strawberry. Light and refreshing. "Good enough to give a bottle to a friend"
Montse Reece Wines	2023 Montse Reece Wines Tempranillo	Lake County	Single Vineyard	Luchsinger Vineyards	95	Grippy, big bold and pleasantly aromatic.
Sonoma-Cutrer Vineyard	2024 Sonoma Cutrer Vineyards Rose of Pinot Noir	Sonoma County, Russian River Valley	Estate Bottled & Produced		96	Picnic in a sundress with a glass of this Rose. Serious, bright, fresh.
Graziano Family of Wines	2023 Graziano Chenin Blanc	Mendocino County	Barrel Fermented		97	Brilliant medley of kiwi. tart golden delicious apple. and citrus. Hint of petrol, herbs and minerals.
Boisset Collection	2022 Raymond Vineyards Reserve Selection Merlot	Napa Valley			98	Vanilla bean, concentrated, juicy great fruit.
Imagery Estate Winery	2022 Imagery Estate Winery Sangiovese	Sonoma County		Produced and Bottled By	97	Full rich and big. A great expression of the varietal
Portalupi	2023 Portalupi Barbera, Pauli Ranch	Mendocino County	Barrel Aged	Pauli Ranch Vineyard	95	Savory, cherry, chocolate, pomegranate, cranberry, vanilla cream.
Raymond Burr Vineyards	2021 Raymond Burr Vineyards Quartet	Dry Creek Valley			97	Rich, pure, graphite, plum. Great weight. Amazing!
Grey Stack	2024 Grey Stack Cellars Four Brothers Rose'	Sonoma Valley, Sonoma Mountain	Estate Vineyard		98	Gorgeous, rose petal nose, white peach, red fruit, creamy, Good acid
R Vineyards	2023 R Vineyards Viognier	Lake County	Estate Vineyard		97	Honeysuckle and jasmine. Floral white rose petal. "Spring in a glass"

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Imagery Estate Winery	2022 Imagery Estate Winery Cabernet Sauvignon	Sonoma Valley		Produced and Bottled By	97	Elegant, very classic. Black currant on nose. Savory.
Brooks Note Wines, LLC	2023 Brooks Note Petaluma Gap Pinot Noir	Petaluma Gap			98	Very rich with umami, dried Porcini mushroom. Dried raspberry. Wild berries. Rich texture.
Ladera Vineyards	2022 Ladera Chardonnay	Russian River Valley, Green Valley	Estate Vineyard		98	Classic California chardonnay. Balance and pretty with a long finish
Vezer Family Vineyard LLC	2023 Vezer Family Vineyard Verdelho / Franci	Suisun Valley	Estate		94	Charming, salty, tart, with a flowery finish. Hints of apple and papaya. Bright and complex
La Prenda Wines	2022 LA PRENDA Merlot	Sonoma Coast (Sonoma)			97	Black olives, gorgeous wine, Chocolate with cherries. Beautiful crushed velvet. A rich wine
Rodney Strong Wine Estates	2023 Davis Bynum River West Chardonnay	Russian River Valley		River West Vineyard	97	Great late summer day wine. Lemon bars and peach dough. Bright and acidic. Big.
Dot Wines LLC	2024 Dot Wine Grenache	Russian River		Riversmoke Vineyard	98	Raspberry, spice. Awesome!
Sangiacomo Family Wines	2022 Sangiacomo Chardonnay Green Acres Vineyard	Sonoma Coast	Single Vineyard	Green Acres Vineyard	98	Sea salt, yellow pear, Mouthwatering acidity
Peterson Winery	2022 Peterson Winery Mendo Blendo	Mendocino	Single Vineyard	Tollini Vineyard, Mendocino . Unfined and unfiltered.	97	Delicious and juicy superstar. Good structure and balance
Boisset Collection	2023 Elizabeth Spencer North Coast Sauvignon Blanc	North Coast			97	Juniper and grapefruit peel.

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Bricoleur Vineyards LLC	2023 Bricoleur Vineyards Founder's Block Pinot Noir	Sonoma Coast			98	Touch of strawberry and cherry. Elegant and well balanced. Pitch perfect aromas that jumps out at you. A poets wine that makes you think.
Villein Wines	2022 Villein Syrah	Russian River Valley	Barrel Aged	Walker Vine Hill	98	Savory, purple flowers, soft lush and complex.
Saini Vineyards	2024 Saini Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc	Dry Creek Valley	Estate		98	Fresh lemon. Thyme. Soft minerals.
Pezzi King Vineyards	2022 Pezzi King Maple Zinfandel	Dry Creek Valley			96	Sweet ripe fruit with milk chocolate and white pepper
Sonoma-Cutrer Vineyard	2023 Sonoma Cutrer Vineyards Wicket	Russian River Valley	Barrel Aged		98	Bright floral aromatics. Tart pineapple and lemon zest. Good acidity.
Trentadue Winery	2022 La Storia Zinfandel	Alexander Valley, Sonoma County	Estate Bottled & Produced	Block 303	99	Classic spice. Poster Child for raspberries.
Trentadue Winery	2022 Trentadue Old Orchard Montepulciano	Alexander Valley	Estate Bottled & Produced		97	Rich expressive. Fresh, energetic.
Coyote Sonoma	2022 Coyote Sonoma Zinfandel	Alexander Valley	Reserve	Harris Kratka	95	Blackberry pie with a lingering finish. A crowd pleaser
Thirty-Seven Wines	2023 Thirty-Seven Albariño	Petaluma Gap			94	Savory, salty, lean and limey. Notes of grapefruit, hand of buddha. Zippy acid.
Deodora Wines	2019 Deodora Riesling	Sonoma Coast	Estate		99	Toast and dry apricots
Trefethen Family Vineyards	2021 Trefethen Family Vineyards Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon	Napa Valley, Oak Knoll District	Estate Grown, Produced and Bottled		98	Small berry fruit forward, complex and beautifully aromatic.
Foley Family Wines	2023 Ferrari-Carano Siena	Sonoma County			95	Chocolate covered pomegranate. Dark and brooding. Ripe, rich and elegant.

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Brassfield Estate Winery	2024 Brassfield Estate Winery Sauvignon Blanc	High Valley	Estate Grown, Produced and Bottled	98	Vibrant, zesty, citrus, floral, juicy fruit. Delicious.
Balletto Vineyards, Inc.	2021 Balletto Vineyards Chardonnay - Sexton Hill Vineyard	Russian River Valley	Estate Grown, Produced and Bottled	Sexton Hill Vineyard 96	Bright, youthful, lively. Fresh and vibrant. Has a depth of flavor
Dancing Wines	2022 Dancing Sonoma Old Vine Zinfandel	Dry Creek Valley	Estate	98	The perfect zinfandel! Fruity, aromatic with baking spices.