# 2025 Sunset International Wine Competition

**Sonoma County, CA  June 10, 2025**

## Best of the Best

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Imagery Estate Winery | 2022 Imagery Estate Winery Pallas | Sonoma Valley | Estate Grown, Produced and Bottled | | 98 | |

## Best Boxed Wine

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Delicato Family Wines | NV Bota Box Dry Rose | California | | | 93 | Honeysuckle, white flowers; richness in the mid-palate; luscious mouthfeel; Nice! |

## Best Cider

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| North Canyon Cider Company | NV North Canyon Cider Company American Semi-Sweet | Sierra Foothills, El Dorado | Estate Bottled & Produced | | 93 | Super fruit;  Very well balanced |

## Best Dessert/Port

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jack Poust & Company, Inc. | NV Presidential 20 Year Old Tawny Port | Porto DOC | | | 95 | Hazelnut, maple; clean and long finish |

## Best Red

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Imagery Estate Winery | 2022 Imagery Estate Winery Pallas | Sonoma Valley | Estate Grown, Produced and Bottled | | 98 | Tasty, layered palate, rich middle; nice rich caramel; elegance |

## Best Rose

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Folded Hills | 2024 Folded Hills Lilly Rosé | Santa Ynez Valley | Estate Grown | | 98 | Good weight, pretty; white grapefruit |

## Best Sparkling

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Domaine Carneros | 2019 Domaine Carneros Ultra Brut | Carneros | Methode Traditionnelle | Estate Grown, Bottled and Produced | 99 | Good structure, richness; notable lemon, citrus curd; classic |

## Best White

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brockmeyer Family Wines | 2024 Brockmeyer Family Wines Albariño | Yakima Valley | | Otis Vineyard | 98 | Honeysuckle, lime; toasty and complex |

## Best of Class

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Acquiesce Winery | 2024 Acquiesce Winery & Vineyards Grenache Rosé | Mokelumne River | Estate Grown, Produced and Bottled | Lodi Rules | 97 | Watermelon, rhubarb; floral; lovely |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AvinoDos Wines | 2019 AvinoDos Wines Cabernet Sauvignon - Stags Leap District | Napa Valley, Stags Leap District | Single Vineyard | | 97 | Big, dark, chocolate Cab; bold tannins; strong, lasting finish |
| Barrister Winery | 2021 Barrister Winery  Petit Verdot | Columbia Valley, White Bluffs | Barrel Aged | | 98 | Nice chocolate, dark and deep; good tannins |
| Bartholomew Estate Winery | 2023 Bartholomew Estate Press Release | Sonoma Valley | | | 95 | Smooth mid-palate, nice balance between earth and fruit; full body, long, balanced finish |
| Bayernmoor Cellars | NV Bayernmoor Cellars White Pinot Noir | Washington State | | | 96 | Crunchy cherry; great acid; floral with lemon; grapefruit and rose petal |
| Bella Luna Estate Winery | 2021 Bella Luna Estate Winery Estate Riserva | Paso Robles, Templeton Gap District | Estate Grown, Produced and Bottled | native yeast, unfined, unfiltered | 95 | Good balance; structure is great |
| Belle Fiore Winery | 2021 Belle Arte Cabernet Franc | Rogue Valley | Estate Grown, Produced and Bottled | | 98 | Balance of oak and spice; flint, dried herb, black cherry. |
| Blue Farm | 2022 Blue Farm Gap's Crown Vineyard | Petaluma Gap | Single Vineyard | | 98 | Full-bodied; dried berries with layers of spice; well-integrated and balanced |
| Blue Farm | 2022 Blue Farm Laceroni Chardonnay | Russian River Valley | Single Vineyard | | 97 | White peach, lemon, slight vanilla; soft palate, minerality; shows restraint |
| Blue Farm | 2023 Blue Farm Sonoma Coast | Sonoma Coast | Barrel Aged | | 96 | Elegant, smooth with a nice mouthfeel; strawberry pie and earth |
| Bluebird Hill Cellars | 2024 Bluebird Hill Cellars Pinot Gris | Willamette Valley | Estate Wine | | 94 | Well-rounded; citrus and minerality |
| Bogle Family Wine Collection | 2022 Clemency Pinot Noir | Russian River Valley | Barrel Aged | | 98 | Strawberry and textured tannins; full ripe fruit; total Russian River! |
| Brecon Estate | 2024 Brecon Estate Rose | Adelaida District | | | 91 | Crisp, well-balanced; hint of rose petal and peach; nice finish |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bricoleur Vineyards LLC | 2022 Bricoleur Vineyards Kick Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon | Fountaingrove District | Estate | | 97 | Red fruit, dark cherry, rhubarb; earthy, ageable |
| Bricoleur Vineyards LLC | 2024 Bricoleur Vineyards Kick Ranch Viognier | Fountaingrove District | Estate | | 98 | Nice plush palate; white chocolate and macadamia nut; floral and perfumy; mouthfeel is delicious |
| Brockmeyer Family Wines | 2024 Brockmeyer Family Wines Albariño | Yakima Valley | | Otis Vineyard | 98 | Honeysuckle, lime; toasty and complex |
| Carol Shelton Wines | 2023 Carol Shelton Wines Black Magic Late Harvest | Sonoma County | Late Harvest | | 98 | Bramble, boysenberry; dense; balanced sweetness |
| Carol Shelton Wines | 2022 Carol Shelton Wines Wild Thing Zin | Mendocino County | Old Vine | Organically grown | 96 | Red currant, pomegranate; spice and earth; creamy; cherry pie; balanced |
| Carter Creek Winery Resort and Spa | 2023 Carter Creek 2023 Roussanne | Texas High Plains | | | 98 | Silky; true to varietal; remarkable finish |
| Collina De Bella | 2023 Collina De Bella Syrah | Winters Highlands | Estate Grown, Produced and Bottled | | 96 | Very Syrah-y; cool climate; cherry and violets |
| DarkRock Wines | 2023 DarkRock Wines Cabernet Sauvignon | Horse Heaven Hills | Estate Grown, Produced and Bottled | Barrel-aged | 94 | Bing cherry; well-balanced; pleasant finish |
| Davis Family Vineyards | 2021 Davis Family Vineyards Sparkling Rose de Noir | Russian River Valley | Methode Champenoise | | 98 | Strawberry blossoms, raspberry; lively on the palate |
| Delicato Family Wines | NV Bota Box Dry Rose | California | | | 93 | Honeysuckle, white flowers; richness in the mid-palate; luscious mouthfeel; Nice! |
| Delicato Family Wines | 2022 Francis Ford Coppola Director's Cut Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon | Alexander Valley | | | 95 | True to AVA; rich, soft, well-balanced; dark cherry and ripe fruit; pleasantly balanced finish |
| Delicato Family Wines | NV RELAX "Zero" Alcohol-Removed Sauvignon Blanc | Germany | | | 92 | |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DIABLO PASO WINES, LLC | 2021 MAX&NICO Maximiliano de Paso | Adelaida District | Barrel Aged | Aged for 28 months in French oak barrels. | 94 | Good body and fruit juiciness; black licorice |
| DIABLO PASO WINES, LLC | 2024 LA BLANCA 2024 Chardonnay | Monterey County | Unoaked | | 98 | Ripe multiple apples; apricot, peach, pomelo; good acidity and finish |
| DIABLO PASO WINES, LLC | 2021 DIABLO PASO La Malinche | Adelaida District | Winemaker 's Reserve | 100% Dry Farm grown. | 90 | Pleasant eucalyptus; rich palate; graphite and ripe plum |
| Domaine Carneros | 2019 Domaine Carneros Ultra Brut | Carneros | Methode Traditionnelle | Estate Grown, Bottled and Produced | 99 | Good structure, richness; notable lemon, citrus curd; classic |
| Dot Wines LLC | 2024 Dot Wine Grenache | Russian River | | Certified Sustainable | 91 | Cherry; meaty, dense elegant finish |
| Double Forte Wine | 2023 Storyteller Pinot Noir | Sonoma County | | | 96 | Mushroom, rhubarb; whole body styling; lingering, tart finish. |
| Drytown Cellars Winery | 2023 Drytown Cellars Barbera | Amador County, Sierra Foothills | | | 93 | Big, bright red fruit; huckleberry blueberry, plum; tart and dynamic |
| Dutcher Crossing Winery | 2021 Dutcher Crossing Cut Root Vineyard | Russian River Valley | Barrel Aged | | 99 | Good oak, jackfruit and cherry |
| Five Star Cellars | 2018 Five Star Cellars Syrah | Walla Walla Valley | | | 96 | Lovely fruit, plum, berries, graphite, violets. Varietally correct |
| Folded Hills | 2024 Folded Hills Lilly Rosé | Santa Ynez Valley | Estate Grown | | 98 | Good weight, pretty; white grapefruit |
| Freixenet Mionetto USA | NV Gloria Ferrer Gloria Ferrer Blanc de Blancs | Carneros, Sonoma | | | 97 | Pears, mousse; refreshing; fully dynamic autolysis |
| Furthermore Wines | 2022 Furthermore Wines Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir | Petaluma Gap | Estate Bottled & Produced | | 98 | Varietally correct; notes of allspice; well-balanced, lasting finish; rich and tart |
| GALLO | NV Viarae Prosecco Rose' | Prosecco Rose DOC | | | 95 | Raspberry and cream; nice texture; floral |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GALLO | NV Barefoot Bubbly Pinot Grigio Bubbly | California | | | 95 | Floral, white peach; creamy and tangy; fruity nose |
| GALLO | NV Barefoot Fruitscato Mango | California | | | 94 | Soft and restrained; hint of mango; fresh, balanced |
| GALLO | NV Barefoot Cellars Chardonnay | California | | | 97 | Crisp green apple, melon; very fruity; full on palate with long finish; menthol and juniper |
| GALLO | NV Barefoot Cellars Red Moscato | California | | | 98 | Pomegranate, cherry, plums; nice texture |
| Gibbs Vineyards | 2022 Gibbs Vineyards Cabernet Franc | Napa Valley | Barrel Aged | | 99 | Red fruits, chewy, supple, long lingering finish, concentrated, savory, spice. |
| Gratus Vineyards | 2019 Gratus Vineyards Napa Valley Malbec Estate Grown | Napa Valley | Estate Grown | | 96 | Blueberries, violets and baking spices; intense nose and flavor; long finish |
| Halleck Vineyard | 2024 Halleck Vineyard Dry Gewurztraminer, Calandrelli Vineyard | Russian River Valley | Single Vineyard | | 97 | Spicy, nice clean finish |
| Husch Vineyards | 2024 Husch Vineyards Chenin Blanc | Mendocino | | | 97 | Juicy nectar, citrus blossoms, geranium; spicy, herbal; orchard fruit; very complex |
| Husch Vineyards | 2024 Husch Vineyards Late Harvest Gewurztraminer | Anderson Valley | | | 98 | Pear and sweet grapefruit |
| Imagery Estate Winery | 2022 Imagery Estate Winery Pallas | Sonoma Valley | Estate Grown, Produced and Bottled | | 98 | Tasty, layered palate, rich middle; nice rich caramel; elegance |
| J Rickards Winery | 2022 J Rickards Winery Petite Sirah, Wild Yeast Reserve | Alexander Valley, Sonoma County | Estate Grown, Produced and Bottled | Reserve | 97 | Grape skin, plum, rich blackberry, black cherry, touch of menthol; delicious |
| J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines | 2023 J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines J. Lohr Fog's Reach Pinot Noir | Arroyo Seco | Estate Grown, Produced and Bottled | Certified California Sustainable | 98 | Elegant, silky texture; good weight; lovely floral aroma; layers of black & blueberry; sophisticated style |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines | 2024 J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines J. Lohr Bay Mist White Riesling | Arroyo Seco | Estate Grown, Produced and Bottled | Certified California Sustainable | 96 | Classic Riesling; layered, honey |
| J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines | 2023 J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines J. Lohr Estates Riverstone Chardonnay | Arroyo Seco | Estate Grown, Produced and Bottled | Certified California Sustainable | 97 | Tropical fruit; good acid/oak balance |
| Jack Poust & Company, Inc. | NV Presidential 20 Year Old Tawny Port | Porto DOC | | | 95 | Hazelnut, maple; clean and long finish |
| Jaxon Keys | 2022 Jaxon Keys Primitivo Blackberry Patch | Mendocino | | | 92 | Rich, dark cherry; nicely extracted; nice balance between fruit and spice |
| King Estate Winery | 2024 King Estate Rose of Pinot Noir | Willamette Valley | | | 98 | Juicy watermelon, strawberry; nice mouthfeel |
| Korbel Champagne Cellars | NV Korbel Sweet Rosé | California | Methode Champenoise | | 96 | White raspberry, honeysuckle; dainty and subtle |
| Kukeri Wines | 2024 Kukeri Wines Sauvignon Blanc | Russian River Valley | Single Vineyard | | 98 | Dried herbs, green tea; hint of mustard on nose; slightly grassy |
| Lionstone International | 2024 Cabalie Viognier blend | Vin de France | | | 98 | Peachy, melon, apricot, stone fruit |
| Lionstone International | 2023 Sartirano Figli  Nas-cetta | Langhe DOC | | | 98 | Herbal, white flower, minerality, balanced acidity. Wells balanced fresh clean crisp finish. |
| Maryhill Winery | 2022 Maryhill Winery Sangiovese, Proprietor's Reserve | Columbia Valley | Proprietor's Reserve | | 97 | Restrained, bright fruit; basil, rosemary; Old World style |
| Maryhill Winery | 2022 Maryhill Winery Syrah, Les Collines Vineyard | Walla Walla Valley | Single Vineyard Series | Les Collines Vineyard | 98 | Concentrated black fruit with nice texture; well-made and balanced |
| Maryhill Winery | 2022 Maryhill Winery Dolcetto, Art Den Hoed Vineyard Painted Hills | Columbia Valley | Single Vineyard Series | | 98 | Savory, plush, silky, leathery; blackberry |
| Mazzocco Sonoma | 2022 Mazzocco Sonoma  Zinfandel Verano Old Vine Reserve | Dry Creek Valley | | | 98 | Ripe plum; good concentration; savory; well structured tannins |
| McGrail Vineyards and Winery | 2022 McGrail Vineyards Shamus Patrick Red Blend | Livermore Valley | Estate Bottled & Produced | Lucky 8 Vineyards | 98 | Red currants; hearty, nutty, savory, integrated |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| McPrice Myers Wines | 2023 McPrice Myers Wines High on the Hog | Paso Robles | | | 98 | Very lush and complete; long finish |
| McPrice Myers Wines | 2023 McPrice Myers Wines Right Hand Man | Central Coast | | | 91 | Dark, varietally correct; great structure, good mouthfeel |
| Mill Creek Vineyards | 2022 Mill Creek Waterwheel Red Wine Blend | Dry Creek Valley | Grown, Produced and Bottled | | 95 | Toast, sweet spice, cherry |
| Nichelini Family Winery | 2024 Nichelini Family Winery Caterina Reserve | Napa Valley | Estate Bottled | | 95 | Light peach and nectarine; complex with green apple and citrus; good acidity |
| North Canyon Cider Company | NV North Canyon Cider Company American Semi-Sweet | Sierra Foothills, El Dorado | Estate Bottled & Produced | | 93 | Super fruit;  Very well balanced |
| Notre Vue Estate Wine Group | 2021 Notre Vue Estate Merlot | Chalk Hill | Estate Grown, Produced and Bottled | Certified Sustainable | 96 | Beautiful berry notes; concentrated |
| Optio Vineyards | 2022 Optio Vineyards Tempranillo | Paso Robles Geneseo District | Barrel Aged | | 96 | Integrated; good VA |
| Pennyroyal Farm | 2023 Pennyroyal Farm Muscat Vin Doolsey | Anderson Valley | | Vin Doolsey | 95 | Classy Muscat personality; not overpowering |
| Penrose Hill | 2021 Titiritero Bonarda-Syrah-Malbec | Mendoza | | | 91 | |
| Pezzi King Vineyards | 2022 Pezzi King Hunny Hill Reserve Zinfandel | Dry Creek Valley | | | 99 | Very rich blackberry fruit; full bodied; long mid-palate |
| Pezzi King Vineyards | 2022 Pezzi King Row 22 Reserve Zinfandel | Dry Creek Valley | | | 96 | Tart, toast; juicy lingering finish |
| Picchetti Winery | 2023 Picchetti Winery Brother's Blend | Monterey County, Arroyo Seco | | | 98 | Black raspberry components.  Well integrated excellent balance and long finish. |
| Picchetti Winery | 2023 Picchetti Winery Brut Zinfandel | Central Coast | | Sparkling Red Wine | 90 | Describes the Zin well; easy drinking; a summer barbecue wine |
| Pour Management llc | NV Rockwell Vermouth Native Amber | California | | | 92 | |
| Rodney Strong Wine Estates | 2023 Rodney Strong Vineyards Chalk Hill Chardonnay | Chalk Hill | | | 97 | Creamy with good acid; ripe pear; mouth filling |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rue de Rêve Apéritifs | NV Rue de Rêve Apéritifs Rouge Apéritif | Sonoma County | | Aperitif | 91 | |
| Saini Vineyards | 2022 Saini Vineyards Zinfandel, Olive Block | Dry Creek Valley | Estate | | 97 | Excellent, meaty, full-bodied; berries, plums; bright on palate |
| Scarlett Wines | 2024 Scarlett Sauvignon Blanc | Napa Valley, Rutherford | Estate Grown | | 97 | Nice intensity, silky; really lovely wine |
| Sidereus Vineyard & Winery | 2024 Sidereus Riesling | Chehalem Mountains | Estate Grown | | 98 | Floral, nice petrol; good residual sugar balance |
| Sidereus Vineyard & Winery | 2022 Sidereus Cabernet Sauvignon | Columbia Valley | Single Vineyard | | 97 | Cocoa, expresso; approachable |
| Soda Rock Winery | 2023 Soda Rock  Alexander Valley Reserve Chardonnay | Alexander Valley | | | 97 | Buttered toast; very balanced, long finish; well-made |
| Soda Rock Winery | 2022 Soda Rock  Smith Orchard Cabernet Sauvignon | Dry Creek Valley | | | 97 | Raspberry, black cherry, chocolate, oak; full-bodied, long finish |
| South Coast Winery | NV Berenda Road Sparkling Peach | California | | Sparkling Grape Wine with Natural Flavors | 95 | Peach; balanced and good acid |
| St. Francis Winery & Vineyards | 2022 St. Francis Moon Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon | Moon Mountain | | Artisan Collection | 98 | Blackberry fruit; cocoa and mocha notes; soft, smooth tannins |
| St. Francis Winery & Vineyards | 2024 St. Francis Sonoma County Sauvignon Blanc | Sonoma County | | | 97 | Full body style; pomelo, ripe melon; very appealing up-front; good body and acidity |
| Storrs Winery & Vineyards, LTD. | 2021 Storrs Pinot Noir | Santa Cruz Mountains | Reserve | | 98 | Velvety texture, lively; very complex; intense, nicely extracted |
| Tedeschi Family Winery | 2024 Tedeschi Family Winery Valdiguié | Napa Valley | | | 99 | Whole-cluster carbonic maceration; instant drinkability; black cherry; great varietal expression |
| The Dancing Fox Winery & Brewery | 2022 The Dancing Fox Winery & Brewery Roussanne | Lodi, Clements Hills | Estate Grown, Produced and Bottled | Lodi rules certified sustainable | 92 | Round, balanced; skilled winemaking |
| The Winery at Holy Cross Abbey | NV The Winery at Holy Cross Abbey Riesling | Colorado | | | 90 | Classic Riesling; well-balanced |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| The Winery at Holy Cross Abbey | NV As Above So Below The Theurigist | American | | | 96 | Bright, floral, well-balanced |
| Tom Mackey Cellars | 2022 Tom Mackey Cellars Sirius Red Wine | Sonoma Valley | | | 97 | Dense; sour cherry, black currant, oak; medium- to full-bodied; long finish |
| Trefethen Family Vineyards | 2021 Trefethen Family Vineyards 2021 Cowgirl and the Pilot | Napa Valley, Oak Knoll District | Estate Grown & Bottled | | 96 | Well-balanced, lovely texture; bright red fruit with chocolate |
| WE KNOW JACK! | 2021 WE KNOW JACK! ROCKPILE RIFF RAFF ZINFANDEL | Rockpile | Estate Grown | Vineyard Designate, Single Block | 99 | Blackberry, lingonberry, baking spice; jammy; integrated tannins; elegant |
| Wise Villa Winery | 2024 Wise Villa Winery Torrontes | Alta Mesa | Estate Produced and Bottled | | 97 | Floral, crisp, clean; a pleasure to drink |
| Wise Villa Winery | 2024 Wise Villa Winery Muscat | Sierra Foothills | Estate Produced and Bottled | | 92 | Stone fruit, citrus; bright |
| Wise Villa Winery | 2024 Wise Villa Winery Chardonnay, Stainless Steel | Clements Hills | Estate Produced and Bottled | | 91 | A little sweet; varietally correct; well-balanced, nice finish |
| Wise Villa Winery | 2022 Wise Villa Winery Petite Sirah | Sierra Foothills | Estate Grown, Produced and Bottled | | 97 | Boysenberry, herbs, cranberry and bergamot |