



THE JEFFERSON CUP INVITATIONAL WINE COMPETITION

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The Jefferson Cup Invitational
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Kansas City, Missouri – The Jefferson Cup Invitational has celebrated its fourteenth year as the only competition that honors the best of the best among wineries from all of America’s wine regions. Each year we select great wines from across America; the 2013 competition included wines from twenty-two states. At the end of the second day of this year's tasting, November 22nd, wines from TWELVE different states had captured top honors. Just as the event’s namesake would have it, democracy reigned at this year’s Jefferson Cup Wine Competition.

The two-day competition culminated with the awarding of TWENTY-FIVE Jefferson Cup Awards. Jefferson Cups were awarded to wines made from both vinifera vines (a European species responsible for most famous wines such as Chardonnay and Cabernet) and non-vinifera vines, which flourish in the more extreme climates in the center portion of the U.S.

These twenty-five prestigious Jefferson Cups were awarded to seven white wines, ten red wines, one rose’, three sparklers and four dessert wines. “While many competitions insist upon selecting a pre-ordained number of sweepstakes winners, our judges are allowed to find the top wines, whether there are only one, two or three, or even NO winners in some categories, as has happened in previous years,” says Jefferson Cup Invitational founder Doug Frost. Best of all, there were once again great examples of wine, both from vinifera and non-vinifera grapes." Together with fifty-two other wines nominated for (but not awarded) the Jefferson Cup, these twenty-five wines represent some of the most compelling wines made in America.

Although many expect California to dominate the awards, Jefferson Cups were won by seven other states: Colorado, Michigan, Missouri, Kansas, Illinois, New York, and Virginia. Both Missouri and New York matched California’s successes with five Cups each. Having never won before, Missouri’s Baltimore Bend won two Cups; other two Cup winners this year included Illinois Sparkling Wine Company (Illinois), Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards (New York) and Pearmund Cellars (Virginia).

Many people have begun to call the Jefferson Cup Invitational, the “Olympics” of wine competitions. This competition is not open to every winery willing to submit an entrance fee. Rather we select the best of the best, culled from tastings and competitions in America throughout 2013. The Jefferson Cup Invitational was founded in 1999 in honor of Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson fathered our constitution, helped champion the international concept of human rights and was a seminal figure in America’s cultural, culinary (including wine) and agricultural history.

About the Jefferson Cup Invitational

The Fourteenth Annual Jefferson Cup Invitational took place on November 21 and 22, 2013 in Kansas City, Missouri. The Jefferson Cup is a different sort of wine competition, in that it is an invitational in which over seven hundred wines are pre-selected which exemplify top viticulture and winemaking throughout America.

This year, out of over seven hundred chosen wines, the judges selected just over three hundred wines to receive the “Medals of American Merit”, which respects wines exemplary of their regions and varieties, and is comparable to a Silver Medal at most competitions. Next the judges chose one hundred sixty-seven wines (there was no pre-ordained number or percentage) that they believed were truly excellent wines, roughly equivalent to Gold Medals in other competitions. Those will receive medallions announcing them as “Medals of American Excellence”.

This year, seventy-seven wines were selected as Jefferson Cup nominees; these wines were nominated by the six judging committees to be considered for Jefferson Cups. Out of those seventy-seven honored wines, the judges collectively picked twenty-five wines to be awarded the Jefferson Cup. By selecting both vinifera and non-vinifera wines for the Jefferson Cup each year, the hope is to respect the diversity of American viticulture and Jefferson's own acceptance of native varieties and hybrids. Jefferson fathered our constitution, helped champion the international concept of human rights and was a seminal figure in America's cultural, culinary (including wine) and agricultural history.

“In most other competitions there is ‘open’ seating,” says Frost, “and California represents 90% of the entries. As a result it usually captures 90% of the honors,” he said. “What we are doing is following Mr. Jefferson's example and allowing every quality wine-producing region in America a place at our table. Each year we select great wines from across America; the 2013 competition included wines from twenty-two states.”

Following the Jefferson Cup competition, the remaining wines are donated for an annual event that benefits children and adults in need. This year the Jefferson Cup raised more than \$100,000 for Angel Flight Central. We hope that these events reflect well upon the great heritage of Thomas Jefferson.

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The 2013 JEFFERSON CUP winners are:

For Sparkling Wine:

Gloria Ferrar Caves & Vineyards Blanc de Noirs nv Carneros
Illinois Sparkling Company Stereo nv Illinois
Illinois Sparkling Company Dollface nv Illinois

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For White Vinifera Wine:

Dr. Konstantin Frank Riesling Reserve 2012 Finger Lakes
Left Foot Charley Riesling Seventh Hill Farm 2012 Old Mission Peninsula, MI
Fox Run Vineyards Riesling Semi-Dry 2012 Finger Lakes
Jefferson Vineyards Viognier 2012 Virginia

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For White Non-Vinifera Wine:

Adam Puchta Winery Desire nv Missouri
Holy-Field Vineyard & Winery Valvin Muscat nv Kansas
Hunt Country Vineyards Vignoles 2012 Finger Lakes

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For Rose' Wine:

Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards Cabin Fever nv Finger Lakes

For Red Vinifera Wine:

Davis Bynum Pinot Noir Jane's Vineyard 2011 Russian River Valley
Bookcliff Vineyards Cabernet Franc Reserve 2011 Colorado
Candor Merlot Lot 4 nv Central Coast
Hess Collection Cabernet Sauvignon 2010 Mount Veeder
Pearmund Cellars Ameritage 2010 Virginia
Carol Shelton Wines Zinfandel Rocky Reserve 2010 Rockpile

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For Red Non-Vinifera Wine:

BlueJacket Crossing Winery Veritas nv American
Baltimore Bend C2 nv Missouri
Baltimore Bend Arrowhead Red nv Missouri American
Montelle Winery Norton 2011 Augusta

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For Dessert Wine:

Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards Vidal Blanc Ice Wine 2012 Finger Lakes
Ladoga Ridge Winery Blackberry nv
Pearmund Cellars Traminette Late Harvest 2011 Virginia
White Tail Run Winery Seyval Semi-Sweet nv Kansas

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