



Call for Entries **Hudson Valley Wine & Spirits Competition**

Under the auspices of The Hudson Valley Wine & Grape Association

Deadline: Monday, August 4, 2016

Dear Hudson Valley Winemaker, Cider Maker & Distiller,

We are proud to announce the **Eleventh** Hudson Valley Wine & Spirits Competition. We continue to improve on our past years' in both publicity and quality. Having our competition venue at the Hudson Valley Wine Festival has shown to have some huge advantages.

Every year our competition has been growing! Last year we had a record breaking year with 122 entries.

Every year I try to reach out to people in the industry that I feel would be great contacts for Hudson Valley wineries. Many judges have recently noted to me how the quality of the wine from the valley has increased. For those important judges that are unable to attend the event, but have so in years past are emailed a copy of the results so they won't miss out, as some of them use the results to order wine for their store or restaurant.

We stage this event to highlight the quality of our region's wines, ciders and spirits and the public's increasing interest in them. I not only donate my time for the competition but also to give seminars at the Wine Fest that highlight the winning wines, ciders and spirits of the competition. This year I will be pairing wines, ciders and spirits from the Hudson Valley with local cheeses and cake balls. Every year when I do these seminars many people go directly to the winery table to purchase after tasting the wines of the seminar.

This year the wines and spirits will be judged by a panel of distinguished wine experts on Saturday September 10, 2016 at the Hudson Valley Wine Festival, Dutchess County Fairgrounds, Rhinebeck NY. In addition, all wine, cider and spirits producers that enter the competition will be listed, linked and Facebooked on the Hudson Valley Wine Fest site.

One big change this year is awards will be given out at the festival. If you are attending you will receive your awards to proudly display. If you are not at the festival, the awards will be mailed to you the following week.

Entering your wine, cider and/or spirits in the competition, it also receives the following exposure:

- Awards will be announced after the competition at the Hudson Valley Wine Festival.
- As winning wines, ciders & spirits are announced if winery is present at wine festival, a tent card will be placed at their booth announcing their medal and winning wine.
- The highest scoring wine, cider and spirit in each major category (White, Red, Fruit, Dessert, Sparkling, and Rosé) as well as the Cider and Spirits will be honored at yet to be determined event.
- A Winery of the Year will be awarded to the winery with the highest average scores.
 - Winery must enter at least 4 wines to be eligible
- All winners will be posted at <http://www.HVWGA.com>.
- A press release with the complete list of awards will be sent to local media and the wine press following the competition.

The Judging Process

- The judging is structured as a blind tasting
- Each entry receives a unique number which follows the wine through the judging
- We use the American Wine Society 20 point scale
- Each panel evaluates the wine by class on an individual basis. We don't judge by price categories. Judges confer to decide all awards; a consensus of panel members determines all medals. Each panel makes the final decision for its wines; results are never altered after the judges make their final decision.
- Judges award all medals through a process of deliberation, discussion, and voting. Agreement is reached through discussion.
- All judges evaluate wines deemed worthy of judging for sweepstakes awards.
- Our goal is not to award an unending string of medals, which could make the results of the competition suspect. We offer the expertise of qualified judges in a controlled setting that benefits the Hudson Valley wine industry.

Awards to be Presented:

- Winery of the Year - this award is given to the winery with the highest average score. Winery must enter 4 or more wines to be considered for this award
- Best in Show - Highest ranking wines get judged by all judges and voted on. The wine with the most votes wins
- Best overall Hudson Valley Wine - The best wine made with 100% Hudson Valley fruit.
- Best Sparkling Wine - The best sparkling wine
- Best White Wine - The best white wine
- Best Red Wine - The best red wine
- Best Cider – Best Cider produced in the Hudson Valley
- Best Spirit - The best spirit
- Double Gold Medal - Awarded to a wine that has won a Gold medal with unanimous vote by the entire panel.

- Gold Medal - Awarded to a wine exhibiting perfect varietal character, balance, and structure, and containing exceptional qualities.
- Silver Medal - Awarded to a wine showing beautiful balance and excellence; a wine extremely well made.
- Bronze Medal - Awarded to a wine that has character and achieves significantly more than an average wine; a tribute to wine making skill.

Please note that the deadline for entry forms and fees is Monday, August 4, 2016.

Please follow the directions below on how to enter. **There have been some changes. I will need the paperwork sent to me along with the entry fee and the wines sent to Whitecliff.**

We are proud to continue what we hope to be a magnificent perennial event for Hudson Valley wineries and distilleries and look forward to seeing you and your wines and spirits there.

Competition Committee Chair
Debbie Gioquindo, CSW, WLS

How to Enter

To Qualify

The competition is open to any wine, cider or spirits produced & bottled in the Hudson Valley AVA made from 100% New York State fruit OR wine made anywhere from 100% Hudson Valley fruit.

All wines and spirits entered must be commercially available in New York State at the time of the competition.

To compete in the category of Hudson Valley AVA Wine, the wine must have been made from at least 75% Hudson Valley produce.

An entry consists of **three (3)** 750ml or 375 ml bottles. Entry fee is \$30 per entry.

No exceptions will be made.

We reserve the right to eliminate entries and retract awards given if these rules have not been followed.

Entry Form

The entry form consists of pages 3 and 4 of this information packet. You are welcome to make additional copies of the entry form. You can also find copies of the entry form at our web site <http://hvwga.com/udson-valley-wine-competition/>. Please fill out the form thoroughly for each wine (we are not responsible for wines entered in an incorrect class).

Entry Fee

\$30 per wine or spirit. Make checks payable to: Hudson Valley Wine & Grape Association.

Deadline for Forms and Fees: August 4, 2016.

All entry forms, wine and checks payable to the Hudson Valley Wine & Grape Association must be submitted and received by **August 4, 2016**

Please mail entry forms and check to:

Hudson Valley Wine Competition
c/o Debbie Gioquindo
608 Pilgrim Plaza
Cape May, NJ 08204

Please send wine to:

Hudson Valley Wine Competition
c/o Whitecliff Vineyards & Winery
331 McKinstry Road
Gardiner, NY 12525

Do not enclose forms and checks inside wine cases!

Deadline for Delivery/Shipment of Bottles: Monday August4, 2016.

- **Three (3)** 750ml or 375ml bottles per wine entered

The earlier it is delivered, the better shape it will be in for judging. It is the winery's responsibility to see to the delivery of its samples to the following address or arrange for pick-up:

Hudson Valley Wine Competition
c/o Whitecliff Vineyards & Winery
331 McKinstry Road

Gardiner, NY 12525