

**170th ANNUAL  
NEW YORK STATE FAIR  
581 STATE FAIR BOULEVARD  
SYRACUSE, NY 13209  
(315) 487-7711**

**August 25 through September 5, 2016**

**COMMERCIAL WINE COMPETITION**

**STATE OF NEW YORK  
ANDREW M. CUOMO, GOVERNOR**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS  
RICHARD A. BALL, COMMISSIONER**

**NEW YORK STATE FAIR  
TROY W. WAFFNER, ACTING DIRECTOR**

**Information for other competitions are available on request and on-line at [www.nysfair.org](http://www.nysfair.org) – under competitions.**

## **NEW YORK STATE FAIR MISSION STATEMENT**

New York State is agriculture, youth, education, industry, diverse cultural traditions and more – our treasured past and brilliant future.

The primary purpose of the New York State Fair is to conduct an annual celebration of the economic, cultural and institutional strengths indigenous to New York with a special emphasis on agriculture as one of the State’s largest and most important industries. Along with twelve-days of expositions, the Fair will offer various forms of affordable entertainment and amusement for families and friends, and showcase the talents, skills and aspiration of our youth. The Fair will also promote agricultural growth and awareness through educational programs, Statewide competitions in breeding and showing of livestock, and by promoting and supporting the sale of the State’s agricultural and food products.

The Fair administration will proficiently and effectively promote the ongoing use of the Fairgrounds to realize the full potential of the Fair as a leading center for exhibitions, trade shows, agricultural events, and cultural and entertainment productions. At the same time, the Fair administration will foster State pride and maximize revenue while preserving the character and tradition of the Fair.

With a full embrace of the State’s insignia, “Excelsior,” the Fair will be operated according to the highest standards of professionalism and ethical conduct.

## **NEW YORK STATE FAIR ADVISORY BOARD**

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**2016 NEW YORK STATE FAIR  
COMMERCIAL WINE COMPETITION  
Wednesday, July 13, 2016**

New York wineries are invited to enter the 2016 New York State Fair Commercial Wine Competition, a competition whose mission is to showcase for more than 1,000,000 fair visitors and the public at large the wide array of acclaimed wines exclusively made and bottled in the state. In addition, judging categories have been added to include cider and distilled products made in New York.

Historically, the wine-consuming public rarely has the chance to experience the same wines judged by a panel of experts. But at the State Fair, they do. This year top Commercial Competition Medal winning wines will be offered as free samples to fairgoers. Last year more than 60,000 samples were distributed, while an army of knowledgeable volunteers, many of them from the nearby wine-rich Finger Lakes, informed the public about New York wines, the state's many wine growing regions, wine trails and special wine-related events.

The prime market for New York made wines is New York, and no single event brings more New Yorkers together to experience the pride of our agricultural bounty like the State Fair. This venue brings maximum exposure to your wines.

Non-alcoholic fruit juices will also be judged. All packaged, ready-to-serve juices made from fruit grown in New York qualify, both still and sparkling. These juices will be judged by an esteemed panel of eight to twelve year-olds. One \$10 entry fee covers as many juices as you wish to enter.

**Specific questions about entry rules, category codes, etc. – contact Charles DiFasi, CSC Co-Chairman.**

**New York State Fair  
Commercial Wine Competition  
Committee Members**

Charles DiFasi, Co-Chairman – Contact Information  
(607) 738-1961  
cdifasi@aol.com

Yvonne Bakowski  
Rex Bambling  
Robert Bilenchi  
Emelio Cashier  
Katie Cheehan

Alice Irwin  
Ethan Irwin  
Lu Kohena  
Rosemary Lauder  
Fred LeBrun

Brian Semeraro  
Pat Semeraro  
Wanda Wood

**ENTRY FORM & FEES DEADLINE: Wednesday, June 22, 2016**

*Entry Fee:* \$45.00 per wine; \$10.00 flat fee for any number of fruit juice entries.  
*Drop Point Due Date:* Wines must be received by Wednesday, June 22nd  
*Entry Arrival:* Wines must be received at the State Fair by Thursday, June 30th  
*Competition Date:* Wednesday, July 13th  
*Awards Ceremony:* Sunday, August 28 at 12:00 noon, Art & Home Center Empire Theatre

**EXHIBITOR GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. The rules printed herein are made a part of the conditions under which all entries of exhibitors are made, and exhibitors are respectfully requested to read them carefully, thereby avoiding confusion at the time of the competition and to make certain in which classes their entries belong as well as period of exhibits.
2. As a condition of exhibiting at the New York State Fair, the exhibitor authorizes the State Fair to use any photographs from the event for future publications.
3. Entries may be made in person, on-line at [www.nysfair.org/competitions](http://www.nysfair.org/competitions) or by mail. Official entry blank for specific Department must be used, except for on-line entries.

Failure to exhibit entry for any reason not satisfactory to the Superintendent of that Department shall forfeit all fees and rents paid by them, except where cancellation of classes, lack of housing or similar reasons may prevent exhibition of entry.

4. The New York State Fair assumes no responsibility for payment of special awards offered by others.
5. The greatest possible care will be taken of all exhibits, but the Management is not responsible for any accident, mistake, loss or damage that occurs, the specimens being entered at the sole risk of owner. Competent personnel will be in charge of the exhibition night and day, and the Management will do all in its power for the safety and protection of all exhibits.

**TO ENTER YOUR WINES**

1. **Entry Form:** Keep a copy for your records and send copy of form and check payable to the "New York State Fair" by the **June 22<sup>nd</sup>** deadline:  
New York State Fair  
Entry Department  
581 State Fair Boulevard  
Syracuse, NY 13209

You may pay for fees with a credit card ONLY by entering on-line at [www.nysfair.org](http://www.nysfair.org) - under "competitions". **All fees are the responsibility of the entrant.**

2. **Wines:** For Distilled – send two bottles (375 ml) or one bottle (750 ml). For others send four bottles (5 btl 375 ml) per wine entry and **a copy of the entry form** to:  
Agricultural Center CWC  
New York State Fair  
581 State Fair Boulevard  
Syracuse, NY 13209

**Wines must be received at the State Fair by Thursday, June 30th. Be sure to include copy(s) of entry form in box with wine. If entering more than ten (10) wines, make copy of entry form for additional space. Keep a copy of entry form for your records.**

**It is imperative that you include category codes, varietal composition and residual sugar on entry. Otherwise we can not guarantee that your wines will be judged correctly.**

3. **Shipping:** For more than one case, indicate total case count on each case. For example, “case 1 of 4”, “case 2 of 4”, etc. Please state number of cases (boxes) shipped on entry form.

### **SPECIFIC COMMERCIAL WINE RULES**

#### **Qualifications:**

Any wine produced in New York State on a bonded wine premises that complies with the category code (see Rules below) and is a **“New York State” labeled wine.**

1. Wines must be made and bottled in NY and **labeled as New York wines or have a NY AVA designation on the label.**
2. Wines must be available for commercial sale at the time of entry.
- 2a. A minimum of thirty (30) 12 bottle cases or the equivalent of each wine entered must be available for sale at the time of entry.
3. All bottles must have a government approved label attached. No exceptions will be made.
  - a. All Blends and Proprietary Labeled wines must have the varieties listed. Percentages are not necessary.
  - b. All wines labeled as varietals must contain 75% of a single variety of the grape identified, otherwise it should be entered under the Other Var./Blends.
4. No limit to the number of wines a winery may enter.
5. If entering more than 10 wines, make a copy of original entry form to use for more space for additional wines.
6. There is no limit as to the number of vintages of the same variety of a wine that a winery may enter.
7. No wine may be entered more than once by an entrant, even if it is marketed under different labels and no single wine may be entered by more than one winery.
8. The decision of the judges’ shall be final in all cases, except where error, fraud, misrepresentation or collusion, not discovered at the time of the award, is proven. In such cases, the Chairman or such referee as he may appoint may make decisions, or the case may be appealed to the Agriculture

Manager, whose decisions shall be final.

9. The organizing committee reserves the right to combine categories where necessary.
10. Exhibitor assumes risk associated with, resulting from or arising in connection with Exhibitor's participation or presence at the New York State Fair, including, risks of theft, loss, harm or injury to the person, property, whether caused by negligence, intentional act, accident, Act of God or otherwise. Exhibitor has sole responsibility for its property or any theft, damage or other loss to such property, whether or not stored in any courtesy storage areas. The New York State Fair, nor any of their respective officers, directors, employees, representatives or assigns, shall be liable for, and Exhibitor hereby releases all of them from, and covenants not to sue any of them with respect to, risks, damages and liability described in this paragraph.

### **BASIS OF JUDGING**

1. Wines will be grouped into flights according to levels of residual sugar or style (oaked or unoaked) whenever possible.
2. Wines will be evaluated by qualified judges, including wine makers, retailers, columnists, restaurateurs, educators, scientists and consultants.
3. Where there are less than five entries per class, committee reserves right to regroup the entries.
4. If the judges are faced with a seriously flawed bottle, one additional bottle will be judged.
5. Previous judges included, among others: Harvey Reissig – Cornell University; Tony Louise – Jefferson Community College; Bill Frank – New York Athletic Club Wine Society; Dana Keeler – Silver Coast Winery, Ocean Isle Beach, NC; Suzanne Geisz, Paul Geisz – Village Tavern Restaurant, Hammondsport; NY; Michael Schaefer – CWE; Alex Sebastian – Wooden Angel Restaurant, Beaver, PA; Bill Moffit & Hope Merletti – Vineyard & Winery Management Magazine (retired publishers); Tom Pellechia – columnist; Bonnie Abrams, Martha Gioumousis – professional consultants.

### **AWARDS**

1. Double Gold, Gold, Silver and Bronze medals as well as Best of Category Plaques will be awarded.
2. Best of Category plaques will be awarded to the top scoring wine from each major wine category.
3. Best of Show – will be awarded to one wine. Complete results of the competition can be found at [www.nysfair.org](http://www.nysfair.org) by August 1, 2016.
4. Best Competition Winery – This award will be presented to the winery that accumulates the most total points in the competition based on a numerical scoring system in which points are awarded for all categories of medals.
5. All Double Gold, Gold, Best of Category and the Best of Show winning wines will be prominently displayed in the Horticulture Building for one million fairgoers to see.
6. Gold, Double Gold, Best of Category and Best of Show Recipients will be notified on the next business day.

7. Top medal winning wines will be poured in a special booth in the Horticulture Building for fairgoers to taste.
8. Special Award - June Phillips Riesling Award
9. Remaining entrants can view results on line – [nysfair.org/competitions](http://nysfair.org/competitions).
10. An Awards Ceremony will take place on Sunday, August 28 at 12:00 noon at the Art & Home Center Empire Theatre. Hope to see you there!

**We're excited to continue an Award to the Top Competition Winery, which will recognize the winery that accumulates the most total points on a numerical scale for medals.**

**Below is a sample mailing label. Feel free to make copies and put on your boxes.**

**ATTENTION!**  
**Food Samples for evaluation**  
**No Commercial Value – not perishable**  
**Conforms to IRS and FDA**  
**Not Taxable per 27CFR24.75**  
**HANDLE AS GLASS**

**TO: NYS Fair Commercial Wine Competition**  
**581 State Fair Blvd.**  
**Syracuse, NY 13209**

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