



2026 Entry Timeline

Commercial Wine

Entry & delivery deadline.....Friday, May 15

Home Wine

Entry & delivery deadline..... Wednesday, May 27

Quick Guide

BY ENTERING YOU ARE AGREEING TO THE TERMS AND RULES PRESENTED IN THIS GUIDEBOOK

Commercial Wine: How to EnterPage 4

Home Wine How to EnterPage 8

Contact.....Orange County Wine Society, Inc
Office 714-708-1636 • office@ocws.org
PO Box 11059 Costa Mesa, CA 92627



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction 1

The Courtyard & Wine Display..... 2

Commercial Wine Competition 4-6

- How to Enter / Judging..... 4
- Awards..... 5
- Entry Delivery..... 5
- Commercial Label & Bottle Competition..... 6

Home Wine Competition 8-11

- How to Enter / Judging..... 8
- Awards..... 9
- Entry Delivery..... 10
- Home Wine Label & Bottle Competition 11





INTRODUCTION

The OC Fair Wine Competition consists of the Commercial Wine Competition, Home Wine Competition and Wine Label Design Competition. All these events are organized, staged and staffed by volunteer members of the Orange County Wine Society, Inc., a non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote the knowledge and understanding of wine, including winemaking and viticulture.

The Orange County Wine Society, Inc. is the co-sponsor of the competition, and is responsible for obtaining and classifying the wines, staging and conducting the actual competition.

Orange County Wine Society, Inc.

The Orange County Wine Society, a non-profit organization that promotes the knowledge and appreciation of wines, is dedicated to raising funds for college scholarships for institutions throughout California. The volunteers of the organization, while enjoying social events, wine tastings and trips throughout the year, are best known for coordinating the OC Fair Commercial Wine Competition and running the wine courtyard at the fair each year. Within the OCWS exists an active home winemaking group which, along with their passion for making fine wines, runs the Home Wine Competition, which is also showcased annually at the OC Fair.

Membership is open to adults who are interested in learning more about wine, winemaking and viticulture. The Society has one or two meetings per month and welcomes inquiries from interested potential members at any time. The Society is an educational, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization; therefore, contributions are fully tax deductible.

Orange County Wine Society Board of Directors

- Fred Heinecke-President
- Fran Gitsham-Vice-President
- Carolyn Christian-Secretary
- Linda Flemins-Treasurer
- Sue England-Director
- CL Keedy-Director
- John Lane-Director
- Don Mayer-Director
- Daniel Vlahovic-Director

Wine Steering Committee

The Wine Steering Committee serves at the pleasure of the OC Fair & Event Center Board of Directors to oversee the Commercial Wine Competition. The committee approves the categories of wines to be judged and makes the final selection of award winners based on the judges' scores. The committee is composed of wine industry professionals and considered by their peers as wine-knowledgeable.



THE COURTYARD & WINE DISPLAY

The purpose of The Courtyard during the OC Fair is to promote the knowledge and appreciation of California wines and winemaking and provide an opportunity to taste and discuss current award-winning wines. Award-winning wines from the Commercial Competition are displayed in the Courtyard. Tastes of these wines are also sold in the Courtyard.

The Courtyard will sell wine by the glass. The Courtyard and wine display are staffed by volunteers from the Orange County Wine Society who are happy to discuss the wines served, winemaking or wine appreciation in general. Funds raised at The Courtyard are used to offset the cost of the Commercial and Home Wine Competitions and support the Orange County Wine Society's scholarship program.

A Home Wine Competition display is also located in the Courtyard along with exhibits of Orange County Wine Society events.





Commercial Wine Competition





Commercial Wine Competition

HOW TO ENTER

Online entry deadline: Friday, May 15

- Review the Commercial Wine Competition guidelines below.
- For complete rules and entry forms, visit info.WineCompetition.com or contact Orange County Wine Society at 714-708-1636 or office@ocws.org.

Guidelines

- Eligibility: only wine produced from grapes grown in California and commercially available for sale.
- Commercial availability requires that the wine be readily available for sale to Orange County merchants or consumers on July 1. The wine does not need to be present in Orange County for direct purchase at retail stores on that date to qualify. Wines sold online are eligible.
- Entry size: Please submit six (6) 750 mL bottles or equivalent of each wine entered.
- Entry fee: there is NO ENTRY FEE in this competition.
- All wines entered must meet BATF regulations and conform to applicable State of California laws regarding label terminology and designations.
- Wines not used for judging will be poured for public tasting during the OC Fair at the Courtyard.

JUDGING

- The judging will take place under rigidly controlled conditions May 30-31, based upon guidelines of the OC Fair Wine Steering Committee.
- All judging will be performed by wine professionals including vintners, winemakers or winery principals, all of whom travel to Orange County for the competition.
- Judging is conducted "double-blind" wherein the judging panel and stewards will have no knowledge of who produced the individual wines being judged. Scoring will be on the recognized 100-point system.
- Each wine will be judged in appropriate price classifications for consumer-comparison benefit. Each classification will be judged separately based on entries in that classification alone, without reference to other wines in the same general category but in separate price classifications. There is further separation by residual sugar content so that dry and sweet wines are judged within their own category.



Commercial Wine Competition

AWARDS

Award-winning commercial wines will be displayed at the OC Fair and will be available for tasting by the public and featured on WineCompetition.com.

Medals

The OC Fair awards are perfect for display in your tasting room:



Personalized trophies

Double Gold, Best of Class



Judging results

The results can be found on the website WineCompetition.com which includes information about each award-winning wine, label and bottle competition as well as a link to the winery's website.



ENTRY DELIVERY

Delivery deadline: May 15

Ship entries to:

OC Fair Wine Competition
88 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626



Commercial Wine Label & Bottle Design Competition



HOW TO ENTER

The annual Commercial Wine Label and Bottle Design Competition will take place again this year in conjunction with the Commercial Wine Competition. The intent is to give recognition to the outstanding labels and bottles designed for wines that have been entered.

Guidelines

- **Eligibility:** labels and bottles from all entries to the Commercial Wine Competition will automatically be entered in the Label and Bottle Design Competition.
- **Entry limit:** the number of entries is limited to the number of wines entered.
- **Entry fee:** there is no additional fee for this competition.

JUDGING

- Preliminary selection of labels will be made by a committee of Orange County Wine Society members with backgrounds in art and design.
- Labels will be chosen based on visual appeal, easy recognition and promotional value. Each of the chosen labels will be placed in a category based on its design, regardless of type of wine.
- A first, second and third place award will be chosen in each category by a vote of the judges and members of the Orange County Wine Society participating in the Commercial Wine Competition. The "Best of Show" is then determined by popular vote of those in attendance. Additionally, a bottle design competition will be held and three winners (first, second and third place) will be selected.

AWARDS

Award-winning labels and bottle designs will be displayed at the OC Fair. Personalized plaques are presented for Best of Show in each label and bottle category.



Home Wine Competition





Home Wine Competition

HOW TO ENTER

The purpose of this competition is to promote the knowledge and understanding of winemaking, viticulture and the appreciation of wine by encouraging amateur winemakers to enter their wines for critical evaluation and to recognize outstanding efforts through awards.

Online entry deadline: Wednesday, May 27

- Review the Home Wine Competition guidelines.
- For complete rules and entry forms, visit homewinecompetition.com or contact Orange County Wine Society at 714-708-1636.
- After submitting your entry, please pay the \$20 processing fee per bottle online.
- Refunds will not be issued for failure to deliver entries.

Guidelines

- **Eligibility:** the competition is open to any amateur home winemaker residing in California age 21 and older.
- **Entry size:** submit one (1) 750 ml or two (2) 375 ml bottles per entry.
- Wines are to be made from grapes, other fruit, or from wine kits by California wine makers.
- Any wine remaining after the event will be disposed.

JUDGING

- Judging will take place on Saturday, June 6, and is not open to the public.
- Judges will be selected by the Orange County Wine Society for their knowledge of wines, winemaking and wine judging experience.
- Judging is conducted "double-blind" wherein the judging panel and stewards will have no knowledge of who produced the individual wines being judged. Scoring will use the modified UC Davis 20-point scale.



Home Wine Competition

AWARDS

Award-winning wines will be displayed at the OC Fair. All award medals, certificates and judges' critique sheets will be mailed to each winemaker after the competition.

Medals

The OC Fair awards are an excellent way to show off your wine making achievements.



Personalized plaques

- Best of Show, Red
- Best of Show, White
- Best of Show, Fruit
- Best of Show, Dessert

Judging results

The results can be found on the website hwcr.ocws.org which includes information about each award-winning wine and label.

OC FAIR HOME WINE COMPETITION 2023

2023 Results

Showing 1-100 of 572 entries (page 1 of 6)

Medal	Winemaker	Wine Details
Best of Show - Red	Brennan, Dan and Pam	Cabernet Sauvignon, Vintage 2021, Ohio, 80% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Petite Syrah
Best of Show - White	Bunkelman, Brad	Other Varietal White, Vintage 2019, Santa Maria, 100% Tomontas GRE, Allan Hancock College Vineyards, Santa Maria
Best of Show - Dessert	Babcock, Carmen	Other Fortified, Vintage 2022, La Mesa, Black Forest style wine, notes of cherry and chocolate
Best of Show - Fruit	Joakimson, Robert	Berry Fruit, Vintage 2023, Concord, Black Raspberry
Double Gold	Alford, Daniel	All Red Blends, Vintage 2022, Huntington Beach, 80% Malbec 20% Syrah
Double Gold	Bakke, Kim and Judy	All Red Blends, Vintage 2021, Orangevale, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Merlot blend
Double Gold	Bakke, Kim and Judy	All Red Blends, Vintage 2021, Orangevale, Cabernet Franc and Merlot blend
Double Gold	Bettencourt, Donna	All Red Blends, Vintage 2020, Sacramento, Touriga Nacional 43.8%, Tempranillo 24.3%, Tinta Cao 19.2%, Souzao 3.5%, Tinta Amarela 3.1%



Home Wine Competition

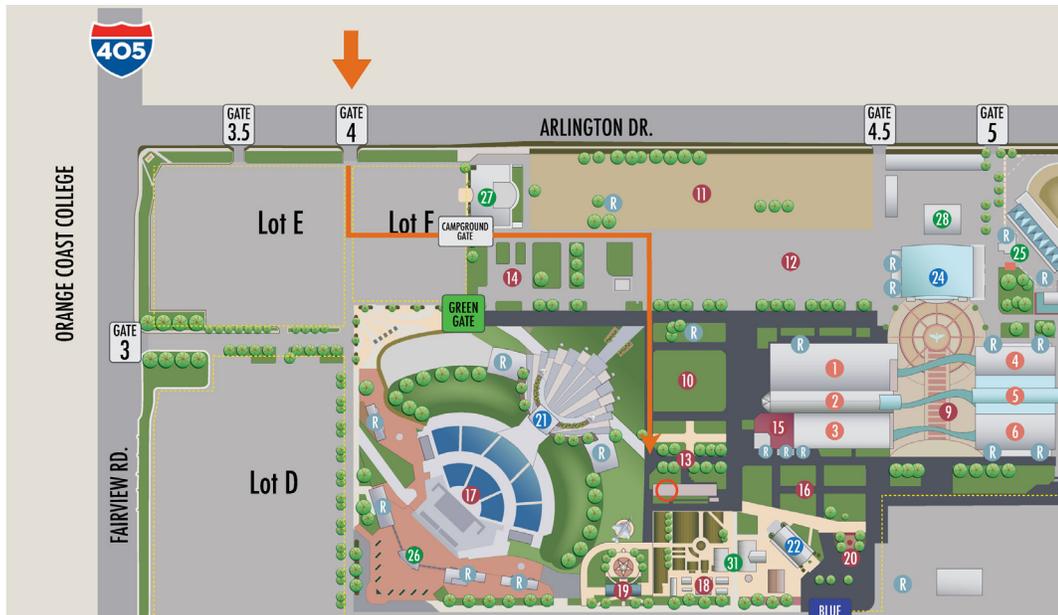
ENTRY DELIVERY

Delivery deadline: Wednesday, May 27

Ship or deliver entries to:

OC Fair Home Wine Competition
Attn: Orange County Wine Society
88 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Late deliveries will not be accepted.



Orange County Wine Society
714-708-1636 ocws.org



Home Wine Label Competition



HOW TO ENTER

The annual Home Wine Label Competition will take place again this year in conjunction with the Home Wine Competition. The intent is to give recognition to the outstanding labels designed for wines that have been entered.

Guidelines

- **Eligibility:** participants must have entered wine in the Home Wine Competition to be eligible for this competition.
- **Entry limit:** the number of label entries is limited to the number of wines entered.
- **Entry fee:** there is a \$5 fee for every label entered.
- Labels may be sent with entry forms or separately.

JUDGING

- Preliminary selection of labels will be made by a committee of Orange County Wine Society members.
- Labels will be chosen on the basis of visual appeal and easy recognition as well as information including varietal or blend, location of grapes, and vintage (or non-vintage). You may include a "back label" with the information for no additional charge. Each of the chosen labels will be placed in a category based on its design, regardless of type of wine.
- A first, second, and third place award will be chosen in each category by a vote of the judges and members of the Orange County Wine Society participating in the Home Wine Competition. The "Best of Show" is then determined by popular vote of those in attendance.

AWARDS

Award-winning labels will receive the following certificates:

- GOLD
- SILVER
- BRONZE

Judging Results

The results can be found on the website hwcr.ocws.org which includes information about each award-winning wine, label and bottle competitions.