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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Competition Rewards Wines from 31 Regions, Names “2024 Winemaker of the Year”

San Diego, Calif. (June 2024) –Winemaker Challenge International Wine Competition announced winners of its 16th annual blind tasting, held April 13-14, in San Diego. This year’s event saw entries from wine regions around the world, ranging from Calatayud, Spain to Swartland, South Africa to Valle de Guadalupe, Mexico to Yadkin Valley, North Carolina. California entries alone covered 19 AVAs, highlighting the incredible diversity of today’s wine industry.

Serving as this year’s Chief Judge was Jim Klein, winemaker at Navarro Vineyards & Winery. Jim headed up a talented team of winemaker judges from across the U.S., who awarded over 550 medals.

Wine of the Year accolades went to domestic and import winners that wowed the judges. **Wine of the Year, domestic** was awarded to the **2019 Brick Barn Wine Estate “Fatalist” Cabernet Franc** – a gem from California’s Santa Inez Valley that received a score of 98 points (\$180). **Best of Show, import** went to the **2019 CHAPILLON Siendra** (95 points), an old-vine Garnacha-driven blend from Spain’s Calatayud region, with a noteworthy retail price of just \$20.

King Estate claimed the **Winery of the Year** prize, with its medal winners racking up the top “slugging percentage” of the competition. **Brent Stone**, King Estate’s winemaker, was named **Winemaker of the Year**, an acknowledgement that includes Chief Judge status at the 2025 Winemaker Challenge competition.

Winemaker Challenge International Wine Competition was founded in 2008 by noted wine journalist Robert Whitley. The competition is 100% judged by professional winemakers from across the nation. Winemaker Challenge is part of the Challenge Series of wine and spirits competitions that includes San Diego International Wine & Spirits Challenge, Critics Challenge International Wine & Spirits Competition, and Sommelier Challenge International Wine & Spirits Competition.

A recap of the top awards follows. See all winning results at www.WinemakerChallenge.com

2024 WINEMAKER CHALLENGE TOP AWARDS

Domestic Wine of the Year

Brick Barn Wine Estate 2019 Fatalist Cabernet Franc \$180.00
Platinum 98 points

Import Wine of the Year

CHAPILLON 2019 Siendra Calatayud Spain \$20.00
Platinum 95 points

Winery of the Year

King Estate, Willamette Valley, Oregon

Winemaker of the Year

Brent Stone, King Estate, Willamette Valley, Oregon

Wine Company of the Year

Kobrand, New York, New York

Importer of the Year

Great Pyrenees Wines, San Diego, California

Best of Show Sparkling Wine

King Estate 2019 Brut Cuvée Estate Grown Willamette Valley \$40.00
and
Domaine Carneros NV Cuvee de la Pompadour Brut Rosé Carneros \$47.00

Best of Show White Wine

V. Sattui Winery 2022 Another World Riesling Anderson Valley \$34.00

Best of Show Rosé Wine

South Coast Winery 2023 Merlot Rosé South Coast \$14.00

Best of Show Red Wine

Brick Barn Wine Estate 2019 Fatalist Cabernet Franc Estate Grown Santa Ynez Valley \$180.00

Best of Show Dessert Wine

Anthony Road Wine Company 2020 Martini-Becraft Selection Vignoles Berry Selection
Finger Lakes \$64.99

Best Barbera

Oak Farm Vineyards 2020 Barbera Estate Grown Lodi \$36.00
and
Jeff Runquist 2021 Reserve Barbera Amador County \$48.00

Best Blended Red Other

Odd Lot 2021 Petite Sirah Petit Verdot Monterey County \$14.99

Best Blended White

Eberle 2023 Cotes-du-Robles Blanc Paso Robles \$34.00

Best Bordeaux Style Blend

Zoltan Istvan Vineyards 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon & Malbec Mendoza \$10.00

Best Boxed Wine

Black Box 2020 Shiraz California \$19.99

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Best Cabernet Franc

Brick Barn Wine Estate 2019 Fatalist Cabernet Franc Estate Grown Santa Ynez Valley \$180.00

Best Cabernet Sauvignon

J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon Carol's Vineyard St. Helena \$60.00

Best Canned Wine Cocktail

Mimosa Royale NV Berry No Appellation \$4.99

Best Cava

Poema NV Pura Organic Brut Cava DO \$14.99

Best Chardonnay

V. Sattui Winery 2022 Chardonnay Napa Valley \$39.00

Best Dry Rosé

King Estate 2023 Rosé of Pinot Noir Willamette Valley \$20.00

Best Fruit Wine

Blue Honey Country Wines & Meads Co. NV Raspberry Lemon Drop \$25.00

Best Fruit/Grape Blend

Barefoot Fruitscato NV Pear \$6.99

Best Grenache

V. Sattui Winery 2021 Grenache Napa Valley \$44.00

Best Hybrid

Villa Bellezza 2023 Pepin Nouveau Upper Mississippi River Valley \$20.00

Best Malbec

V. Sattui Winery 2021 Malbec Napa Valley \$52.00

Best Mead

Blue Honey Country Wines & Meads Co. NV Honey Lavender Mead \$35.00

Best Merlot

South Coast Winery 2019 Merlot South Coast \$14.00

and

St. Francis 2021 Artisan Collection Merlot Behler Vineyard Sonoma Valley \$52.00

Best Montepulciano

Fazeli Cellars 2019 Montepulciano Temecula Valley \$55.00
Gold 93 points

Best Muscat

Caposaldo NV Moscato Provincia Di Pavia IGT \$14.99

Best Petit Verdot

Carruth Cellars 2021 Petit Verdot Reynoso Vineyards Alexander Valley \$44.00

Best Petite Sirah

Jeff Runquist 2021 Reserve Petite Sirah Salman Vineyard Clarksburg \$50.00

Best Pinot Blanc

Navarro Vineyards 2023 Pinot Blanc Anderson Valley \$21.00

Best Pinot Grigio

Caposaldo 2023 Pinot Grigio Delle Venezie DOC \$12.00

Best Pinot Gris

King Estate 2022 Domaine Pinot Gris Estate Grown Willamette Valley \$29.00

Best Pinot Noir

V. Sattui Winery 2022 Collina d'Oro Pinot Noir Russian River Valley \$68.00

Best Prosecco

La Marca 2022 Prosecco Rosé Prosecco DOC \$19.99

Best Red Rhone Blend

Navarro Vineyards 2022 Red Roan Cuvée GSM Mendocino \$39.00

Best Riesling

V. Sattui Winery 2022 Another World Riesling Anderson Valley \$34.00

Best Sangiovese

Raffaldini 2022 Sangiovese Classico Swan Creek \$30.00

Best Sauvignon Blanc

Whitehaven 2023 Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough \$20.00

Best Spanish Blend

CHAPILLON 2019 Siendra Calatayud Spain \$20.00

Best Sparkling Rosé

Domaine Carneros NV Cuvee de la Pompadour Brut Rosé Carneros \$47.00

Best Spirits Barrel Aged Wine

1924 2022 Double Black Cabernet Sauvignon Bourbon Barrel Aged Lodi \$15.00

Best Super Tuscan Style

Bella Luna Estate Winery 2020 Estate Riserva Carly's Vineyard Paso Robles;
Templeton Gap District \$58.00

Best Sweet Rosé

South Coast Winery 2023 Merlot Rosé South Coast \$14.00

Best Syrah

Brick Barn Wine Estate 2021 Syrah Estate Grown Santa Ynez Valley \$50.00

Best Tempranillo

Jeff Runquist 2022 Tempranillo Miravet Vineyard Clements Hills \$30.00

Best Verdelho

Jeff Runquist 2023 Verdelho Estate Grown Amador County \$27.00

Best Vermentino

Jana 2022 Vermentino Amador County \$30.00

Best Vintage Brut

King Estate 2019 Brut Cuvée Estate Grown Willamette Valley \$40.00

Best Zinfandel

V. Sattui Winery 2021 Zinfandel School House Creek; Old Vine Dry Creek Valley \$46.00

See complete results at www.WinemakerChallenge.com

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