



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Eberle Winery Scores Big at Winemaker Challenge International Wine Competition

San Diego, Calif. (May 14, 2025) - The results are in for the 2025 Winemaker Challenge International Wine Competition, held April 11-12 in San Diego. Now in its 17th year, Winemaker Challenge is distinctive among wine competitions in that 100% of its judges are professional winemakers – experts who are uniquely qualified to evaluate the potential of wines from barrel to bottle to peak maturity, ensuring that the best rise to the top. This year’s winemaker judges met over two days in San Diego for a blind tasting of wines from across the globe, awarding over 550 medals and special recognition awards.

The top-scoring **2023 Eberle Winery Sangiovese** from Paso Robles was named **Wine of the Year (domestic)** with a 98-point score, edging out its winery stable mate, the 2023 Eberle Côtes-du-Rhône, by a single vote in a taste-off. **Import Wine of the Year** went to the **2024 Taylors Heritage Riesling** from Clare Valley, adding to the growing legend of great Australian Riesling.

The competition’s fourth annual **Winemaker of the Year** award went to **Chris Eberle** of Eberle Winery in Paso Robles, located in California’s northern San Luis Obispo County. “While Chris isn’t related to winery owner and area pioneer Gary Eberle, it’s clear that Gary made a wise choice in selecting Chris to take over the day-to-day winemaking duties,” said Competition Director Rich Cook. Chris also led Eberle to the **Winery of the Year** prize with a great showing of wines from three vintages.

“To have your wines evidence top quality across the board in a blind judging by fellow winemakers is a true honor. We’re proud to recognize Chris’ talents as our Winemaker of the Year, which includes an invitation to serve as Chief Judge at the 2026 Winemaker Challenge,” said Cook.

Boisset Collection was named **Wine Company of the Year**, recognizing the family-owned collection of historic and unique wineries headed by Jean-Charles Boisset. **Small Producer of the Year** recognition went to Napa Valley’s **Tom Eddy Winery**.

For a complete list of award winners, go to WinemakerChallenge.com. A recap of the top awards follows.

Winemaker Challenge, founded in 2008, is part of the Challenge Series of international wine and spirits competitions founded by wine journalist Robert Whitley that includes San Diego International Wine & Spirits Challenge, Distillers Challenge International Spirits Competition, Critics Challenge International Wine & Spirits Competition, and Sommelier Challenge Wine & Spirits Competition.

Director's Awards

Wine of the Year (Domestic)

Eberle 2023 Sangiovese Paso Robles \$45.00
Platinum 98 points

Wine of the Year (Import)

Taylors Wines 2024 Heritage Riesling Clare Valley, Australia \$28.00
Platinum 95 points

Winery of the Year

Eberle Winery
Paso Robles, California

Winemaker of the Year

Chris Eberle
Eberle Winery, Paso Robles, California

Wine Company of the Year

Boisset Collection
Napa Valley, California

Small Producer of the Year

Tom Eddy Winery
Napa Valley, California

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Best of Show Sparkling Wine

Domaine Carneros NV Brut Rose Cuvée de la Pompadour Carneros \$47.00
Platinum 95 points

Best of Show White Wine

Navarro Vineyards 2024 Pinot Blanc Anderson Valley \$21.00
Platinum 96 points

Best of Show Rosé Wine

Eberle 2024 Côtes-du-Rôbles Rosé Paso Robles \$34.00
Gold 93 points

Best of Show Red Wine

Eberle 2023 Sangiovese Paso Robles \$45.00
Platinum 98 points

Best of Show Dessert Wine

South Coast Winery 20 Year Old Tawny Estate Grown South Coast \$49.99
Gold 93 points

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Best Albariño

Agricola Farm Corp. 2024 Albariño La Noria Vineyard San Diego County \$30.00
Gold 93 points

Best Barbera

Oak Farm Vineyards 2022 Barbera Estate Grown Lodi \$40.00
Platinum 94 points

Best Bordeaux Style Blend

Gershon Bachus Vintners 2020 Dae Dia Meritage Temecula Valley \$65.00
Gold 93 points

Best Boxed Wine

Bota Box NV Sauvignon Blanc Chile \$22.99
Platinum 94 points

Best Cabernet Franc

Fallbrook Winery 33°N 2021 Cabernet Franc Estate Grown Winemaker's Vineyard Collection #18 South Coast
\$55.00
Platinum 94 points

Best Cabernet Sauvignon

Argonne Cellars 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon Quintessence Vineyard Red Mountain \$42.00
Platinum 97 points

Best Chardonnay

Black Stallion Estate Winery 2023 Chardonnay North Coast \$20.00
Platinum 95 points

Best Fruit/Grape Blend

Barefoot Fruitscato NV Strawberry \$6.99
Gold 93 points

Best Grenache Blanc

La Douleur Exquise 2022 GRB Pays d'Oc IGP France \$27.00
Platinum 94 points

Best Hybrid Wine

JOLO Vineyards 2022 Pilot Fog North Carolina \$99.00
Platinum 95 points

Best Malbec

Alamos 2021 Malbec Selección Mendoza Argentina \$20.00
Platinum 95 points

Best Merlot

Rodney Strong Vineyards 2023 Merlot Sonoma County \$23.00
Platinum 94 points

Best Muscat

Mia Marie 2024 Dry Muscat San Diego County \$43.00
Gold 92 points

Best Orange Wine

Rumpelstiltskin 2023 Trousseau Gris Skin Fermented Russian River Valley \$32.00
Platinum 94 points

Best Petit Verdot

ZD Wines 2023 Rosa Lee Petit Verdot Napa Valley \$66.00
Platinum 94 points

Best Petite Sirah

Tom Eddy 2021 Petite Sirah Palisades Vineyard Napa Valley \$110.00
Platinum 96 points

Best Pinot Blanc

Navarro Vineyards 2024 Pinot Blanc Anderson Valley \$21.00
Platinum 96 points

Best Pinot Grigio

Barefoot Cellars NV Pinot Grigio California \$6.99
Gold 91 points

Best Pinot Gris

King Estate 2023 Pinot Gris Willamette Valley \$20.00
Gold 93 points

Best Pinot Noir

ZD Wines 2023 Pinot Noir Founder's Reserve Carneros \$93.00
Platinum 95 points

Best Port

South Coast Winery 20 Year Old Tawny Estate Grown South Coast \$49.99
Gold 93 points

Best Prosecco

La Marca 2023 Prosecco Rosé Prosecco DOC \$19.99
Platinum 94 points

Best Red Blend

Narmada Winery 2021 Melange Virginia \$45.00
Gold 93 points

Best Red Rhone Blend

Eberle 2023 Côtes-du-Rhône Paso Robles \$36.00
Platinum 97 points

Best Riesling

Taylors Wines 2024 Heritage Riesling Clare Valley Australia \$28.00
Platinum 95 points

Best Rosé

Eberle 2024 Côtes-du-Rhône Rosé Paso Robles \$34.00
Gold 93 points

Best Sangiovese

Eberle 2023 Sangiovese Paso Robles \$45.00
Platinum 98 points

Best Sauvignon Blanc

Nobilo 2023 Silver Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough New Zealand \$13.99
Gold 92 points
and
Whitehaven 2023 Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough New Zealand \$20.00
Gold 92 points

Best Shiraz

First Principles 2022 Shiraz Clare Valley Australia \$27.00
Platinum 94 points

Best Sparkling Rosé

Domaine Carneros NV Brut Rose Cuvée de la Pompadour Carneros \$47.00
Platinum 95 points

Best Super Tuscan New World

Oak Farm Vineyards 2021 Raffaele (Red Blend) Estate Grown Lodi \$40.00
Gold 92 points

Best Syrah

Calchas 2022 Syrah Columbia Valley \$32.00
Gold 92 points
and
The Winery at Holy Cross Abbey 2022 Syrah American \$38.00
Gold 92 points

Best Tannat

GCV 2021 The Individualist Texas Hill Country \$74.00
Gold 92 points

Best Tempranillo

McPherson Cellars 2022 Tempranillo Moore Family Vineyards; Tokio Block Texas High Plains \$46.00
Gold 90 points

Best Vermentino

Raffaldini 2024 Vermentino Superiore Swan Creek \$28.00
Platinum 94 points

Best Vintage Brut

Carter Estate 2016 Brut Estate Grown Lot No. 0003 South Coast \$46.99
Gold 93 points

Best Viognier

Grape Creek Vineyards 2022 Viognier Texas \$39.00
Gold 93 points

Best White Rhone Blend

South Coast Winery 2024 GVR Estate Grown Temecula Valley \$26.99
Platinum 95 points

Best Zinfandel

Eberle 2023 Zinfandel Paso Robles \$40.00
Gold 93 points
and
Vienza at Europa Village 2020 Viaggiare California \$59.00
Gold 93 points

For a complete list of award winners, go to [WinemakerChallenge.com](https://winemakerchallenge.com).

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Media Contact: _____

Diane Salisbury, Executive Director
619-807-8560
diane@winecellarproductions.com