



ULTIMATE WINE CHALLENGE

LIKE NO OTHER COMPETITION

2015 Ultimate Wine Challenge

Award Recipients

Ultimate Wine Challenge lists below the award recipients for 2014. Each Chairman's Trophy winner and group of Finalists represent the best in their individual category.



A note on the icons:

 **Product Image:** to assist you with visual identification, we've included an image for each product evaluated. (Please note that age statements, vintages or label may vary slightly from the specific product evaluated but it represents a helpful portrayal of the brand.)

Click icon to view.

Champagne/Sparkling Wines

Champagne - France

Award	Score	
Chairman's Trophy	96	Champagne Marion-Bosser Premier Cru Extra Brut Blanc de Blancs Champagne (France), \$51.99 The pinpoint mousse is delightfully prickly, clean, and refreshingly acidic. First nosings discover multiple layers of baker's yeast, sourdough, buttered toast, and lemon peel. In the mouth, the flavor profile explodes with stone dry, seed-like tastes of ripe grapes, citrus, sesame seed. The silky texture elegantly wraps the entire sensory experience with substance and class. Top-notch luxury. Great Value. Extraordinary, Ultimate Recommendation

Finalist	93	Moët & Chandon Imperial Brut Rose Epernay (France), \$55.00	Visual effect of the mesmerizing pale rose color is memorable. First inhalations feature subtle fragrances of ripe peach, nectarine, pink grapefruit, black grapes, raisins. Taste profile highlights the orchard fruit freshness and tanginess that's both acidic and moderately tannic, but dazzlingly concentrated on grapiness. Finishes long and languid. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	92	Champagne Marion-Bosser Brut Tradition Champagne (France), \$45.99	Pleasant toasty aromas of just baked brioche mix with undertones of honeyed almond and white flowers. The mousse is creamy on the palate, with bright lemony flavors augmented by crisp minerality and a chalky finish. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	92	Moët & Chandon Grand Vintage Brut Rose 2006 Epernay (France), \$65.00	Carries an onionskin hue with flecks of copper. The nose is floral and spicy, brining to mind cinnamon and chrysanthemum. The mouse is soft and delicate, leading way to crushed raspberry fruits and a touch of preserved orange. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	92	Moët & Chandon Imperial Brut Epernay (France), \$41.00	Pale straw tone. Mineral, limestone aromas on the nose. Apple tastes on the palate, an appealing hint of crisp pear character also come across. Bubbles are fine while a stony minerality is apparent. An excellent bubbly for all occasions. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended

Champagne/Sparkling Wines

Cava – Spain

Award	Score	
Chairman's Trophy	94	Poema Brut Rosado Cava (Spain), \$12.99
		This sparkling wine carries a deep pink hue. The palate is driven by citrus, taking the form of tangerines, orange, and there is a hint of Californian persimmons. Dry, but with a delightfully fruity character. An easy quaffer. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended

Finalist	93	Marques de la Concordia Millesime Reserva de la Familia Rose Brut Cava (Spain), \$13.99	A lovely, light pink hue. Pit fruit aromas float from the glass. Bubbles charge onto the palate with a taste of peach and nectarine. Though the fruit here is intense, it is all enveloped in a mineral dryness that balances this wine completely. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	93	Marques de la Concordia Seleccion Especial Brut 2012 Cava (Spain), \$11.99	Straw hue with flecks of gold. Seville orange marmalade come through in the perfume. Citrus drives the palate in the form of orange, meyer lemon and clementines. Long, lingering acidity and a slightly richer palate than is usual for a Brut. A crowd pleasing sparkling wine. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Champagne/Sparkling Wines			
Prosecco - Italy			
Award	Score		
Chairman's Trophy	95	Tenuta Ca'Bolani Prosecco Cervignano del Friuli (Italy), \$18.99	A pale yellow-straw color in the glass, this prosecco bursts with aromas of peaches and nectarines, as well as white flowers. In the mouth, it's crisp and refreshing, but with a creamy texture thanks to a persistent mousse and a clean finish. Great Value. Extraordinary, Ultimate Recommendation
Finalist	93	Zonin Prosecco Veneto (Italy), \$14.99	Pale straw-colored, this softly effervescent prosecco is bursting with fresh aromas of summer fruits and flowers. Easy-drinking at a pleasant 11% ABV, it's crisp and refreshing on the palate, with a hint of minerality and a nice, clean finish. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	92	Avissi Prosecco Veneto (Italy), \$13.00	This pale straw-colored prosecco pours with a fine, persistent fizz. As the bubbles dissipate, subtly peachy and floral aromas emerge from the glass. In the mouth, it's crisp and refreshing with a clean finish. Lovely as an aperitif. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended

Champagne/Sparkling Wines

Sparkling – USA

Award	Score	
Chairman's Trophy	95	Domaine Carneros by Taittinger Le Reve 2008 Carneros (United States), \$105.00 Bright, tornado-like effervescence. Toasted opening scents marry ripe grapes, dry earthiness, and lemongrass into a powerfully structured bouquet that's sublime and multilayered. Taste profile accents the acidic crispness which is the featured flavor highlight that lends a pleasing freshness throughout the whole in-mouth experience. Extraordinary, Ultimate Recommendation
Finalist	93	Gloria Ferrer Sonoma Brut Sonoma County (United States), \$22.00 Opens with bright pear and green apple notes with a touch of honey and white flower. On the palate it is dry with orchard fruits accompanied by a brisk acidity and a fine mousse. The finish is dry with Granny Smith apple. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	92	Chateau Frank Brut 2008 Finger Lakes (United States), \$24.99 This dry sparkler opens up with aromas of rising bread dough, giving way to fresh fruity notes of notes of citrus and stone fruit. It shows plenty of wet-slate minerality and a hint of the saline. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended

Champagne/Sparkling Wines

Sparkling - World

Award	Score	
Finalist	91	Patricius Tokaj Furmint Brut Sparkling 2012 Tokaji (Hungary), \$n/a Exotic aromas of quince, honeydew melon, mango, coconut meat, and honeysuckle rise from the glass with a delicate note of baking spice. Ripe and round on the palate with tropical melon and citrus coming forward backed by minerals and spice. The finish is dry and fruit-forward with a gentle saline minerality. Excellent, Highly Recommended

Finalist	91	Rotari Rose Trento (Italy), \$14.99
		On the nose it is a wonderful display of sweet red berries and savory aromas of dried oregano, ripe tomato, and pink peppercorn. On the palate it has a fine mousse and more red berry fruits backed by minerals and a savory edge. The finish is dry, crisp, and mineral with red berries. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	90	JCB by Jean Charles Boisset No. 21 Cremant de Bourgogne (France), \$25.00
		A fragrant floral nose gives way to bright green apple aromas. Crisp citrus and more green apple carry on through to the palate. Tongue-tickling bubbles are small and persistent, and a stony minerality makes it the perfect aperitif. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	90	Vinkara Yasasin 2013 Ankara (Turkey), \$n/a
		Subtle on the nose with aromas of Anjou pear. Vibrant in the mouth with an incredibly tight and vivacious bubble. Tart and chalky, this mineral driven wine offers fresh fruit flavors of lemons and green apples with a hint of golden raisin on the finish. Excellent, Highly Recommended

White Wines

Chardonnay - World

Award	Score	
Chairman's Trophy	94	Westerly Chardonnay 2013 Santa Barbara County (United States), \$40.00
		Sunny California fruit character shines through in this wine. Winter citrus with yellow-orange persimmons infuse the perfume. The acidity is gentle and unobtrusive, while the fruit bounces off the tongue, with the more secondary taste of preserved lemons. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	93	Cupcake Chardonnay 2013 Central Coast (United States), \$10.99
		Straw hue with flecks of green, this wine offers textured oak flavors carried by a toasty nose. This wine is not shy! The palate is laced with ripe, oily, citrus skin gusto, and as the name implies there is sweetness that delights. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended

Finalist	93	Frei Brothers Reserve Chardonnay 2013 Russian River Valley (United States), \$20.00	This wine shows a pale straw stain. Delivers a dazzling nose of bright, fresh apples. The wine has sturdy backbone, balanced out by pretty, soft fruit flavors. The acidity is mellow yet present. Overall, a lovely easy-drinking wine. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	92	Belle Ambiance Chardonnay 2013 California (United States), \$9.99	Peachy clean aromas in the perfume and the mouth. The acidity is sharp and lip-smacking, making this a guzzler. Rich butterscotch flavors entice the palate. A bright and pretty wine that is simultaneously yin and yang. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	92	Black Stallion Estate Winery Chardonnay 2013 Napa Valley (United States), \$18.99	Pale straw tone with flecks of gold-green. Heady oak character comes through on the nose. Palate is opulent and plush. Balanced citrus acidity balances the rich character of this wine. The finish lingers long after the last mouthful. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	92	Rodney Strong Chardonnay 2013 Sonoma County (United States), \$17.00	Peaches and cream leap from the glass followed by more delicate hints of apples, blossom, and toasted oak. Oak is present on the palate with orange marmalade, apples, minerals and the finish is lengthy, warm, and citrus fruit runs rampant. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	92	Rodney Strong Estate Chardonnay 2013 Chalk Hill (United States), \$22.00	The nose is delightfully restrained with chalky minerals, lime zest, sweet nectarine, and pear. On the palate it is fresh with pear, citrus, zesty barrel spice, and pineapple. Pineapple returns on the finish with minerals and lime. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended

White Wines

Sauvignon Blanc - World

Award	Score
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Chairman's Trophy	95	<p>Rodney Strong Charlotte's Home Sauvignon Blanc 2013 Northern Sonoma County (United States), \$17.00</p> <p>Fresh and fruity nose reminiscent of white peach, apricot blossom, lemon skin, and minerals. There is a light spritz on the palate with peach and clementine zest and a mineral backbone. The finish is crisp, fresh, and squeaky clean. Great Value. Extraordinary, Ultimate Recommendation</p>
Finalist	93	<p>Bolder TM The Daily Double Sauvignon Blanc 2014 South Eastern Australia (Australia), AUDn/a , <i>seeking US Importer</i></p> <p>Crisp and clean aromas of green apple, grapefruit, and spicy green peppers. The spiciness continues on huge palate with more green apple, sea minerals, white pepper, and a hint of blossom. The finish is exquisite and dry. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>
Finalist	92	<p>Cross River Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Marlborough (New Zealand), \$15.99</p> <p>Typical varietal characteristics of tropical fruit and grassy notes come through on the nose of this sauvignon blanc. In the mouth, it shows plenty of tart gooseberry, guava and lemongrass. A crisp and zingy white. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>
Finalist	92	<p>The Hidden Sea Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Limestone Coast (Australia), AUDn/a , <i>seeking US Importer</i></p> <p>Pungent tropical fruits mingle with white pepper, green apple, and sage. The palate is more herbaceous than the nose but balanced by ripe pear and apple fruit which last on the palate accompanied by minerals and salt. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>
Finalist	92	<p>Tiki Sound Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Marlborough (New Zealand), \$15.99</p> <p>This sauvignon blanc opens up with a typically grassy nose, but you can also detect a whiff of fresh wild flowers there. In the mouth, it's a lively party of tart green apples, citrus and gooseberry. Zingy and refreshing. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>

Finalist	92	Two Oceans Sauvignon Blanc 2015 Western Cape (South Africa), \$7.99
<p>On the nose it is spicy with grapefruit zest, apples, and jalapeño aromas. On the palate it maintains spice that is matched by refreshing citrus and minerals. The finish is crisp and clean. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>		
White Wines		
Riesling - World		
Award	Score	
Chairman's Trophy	94	Dr. Konstantin Frank Semi-Dry Riesling 2013 Finger Lakes (United States), \$14.99
<p>Super aromatic, boasting lychee and rose flower water. Roses continue on the palate in the form of rose petal jam, joined by Seville oranges and Turkish apricots. Contains lovely juicy acidity to balance out the sweetness. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>		
Finalist	93	Mirassou Riesling 2013 California (United States), \$12.00
<p>This pale gold riesling has a subtle nose of floral and fruity aromas with a hint of white pepper. In the mouth, it's semi-sweet with a round, peachy character, yet still manages to show bright acidity. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>		
Finalist	92	Chateau Ste. Michelle & Dr. Loosen Eroica Gold Riesling 2013 Columbia Valley (United States), \$30.00
<p>Menthol, ripe peach and Satsuma aromas. Mint leaf, citrus and stone fruits continue on the palate, which is sweet, yet not overly so. The acidity is vibrant, balancing out the honeyed character of the wine. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>		
Finalist	91	Dr. Konstantin Frank Riesling 2013 Finger Lakes (United States), \$24.99
<p>Ripe peaches and nectarines are heady on the nose. Slightly oily on the palate, this richly textured and deeply flavored wine remains bright with Meyer lemon and steely minerals while the ripe stone fruit unfurls with a hint of sweetness. Fresh and balanced. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>		

Finalist	91	Weir Family Vineyard Riesling 2012 Beamsville Bench (Canada), CAD22.95 , seeking US Importer
<p>Pale straw color. A powerful perfume of honeysuckle gives way to a big, juicy mouth full of sweet orange and Meyer lemon with a seashell salinity at the edges. A bright, fruity riesling with citrus-driven acidity. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>		

White Wines

Pinot Grigio/Pinot Gris - World

Award	Score	
Chairman's Trophy	94	Dr. Konstantin Frank Pinot Gris 2013 Finger Lakes (United States), \$19.99
<p>Intriguing steely mineral aromas abound on the lightly pungent nose. On the palate it is fresh and ripe with Anjou pears, varied ripe citrus, and white flowers, all integrated cleanly. A soft and pretty wine. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>		
Finalist	92	Two Oceans Pinot Grigio 2015 Western Cape (South Africa), \$7.99
<p>Vibrant nose of peach, ripe Granny Smith apple, lemon drop, and blossom. The palate displays broad stone fruit character with lifted citrus notes and minerals and citrus abound on the palate. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>		
Finalist	91	Domino Pinot Grigio 2013 California (United States), \$7.49
<p>Delicate and peachy on the nose with intriguing floral and citrus aromatics as well. Crisp and clean on the palate with equally delicate peach and stone flavors. A wonderfully crisp and dry finish ensues. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>		
Finalist	91	Sequin Pinot Grigio 2013 California (United States), \$10.99
<p>Pretty flaxen color is bright. Opening aromas are filled with zesty citrus peel, grape skin tartness, and a nuance of chrysanthemum blossom. Taste profile is subtly spiced with traces of thyme and green peppercorn. Finishes short but tangy, crisp, and clean. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>		

White Wines

Muscat/Moscato/Moscatel – World

Award	Score	
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Chairman's Trophy	93	Mirassou Moscato 2013 California (United States), \$12.00
		Intriguing and powerful aromas of lychee, beeswax, baked peach, and honeysuckle. Sweetness on the palate is balanced by salty minerals, tropical melon, passion fruit and kiwi. A mouth-watering finish follows. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	91	Duck Commander Pin Tail Moscato 2013 California (United States), \$10.00
		Fresh fig, lime zest, apricot, and sweet nectarine come to mind as well as honey and blossom. Sweet and tropical in the mouth with a subtle saltiness and hints of citrus pith and stone. The finish is fresh, sweet, and juicy and punctuated by citrus. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	91	Xo, G Wine Moscato California (United States), \$9.97
		This lightly aromatic wine is floral and peachy. Gently sweet in the mouth with a nice round quality, the flavors are bright and fresh, offering stone fruits like nectarine and apricot alongside cleansing lemon rind. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended

White Wines

White Blends – North America

Award	Score	
Chairman's Trophy	94	Gaspereau Wineries Tidal Bay White 2014 Nova Scotia (Canada), CAD21.99 , <i>seeking US Importer</i>
		Delicate and pretty nose of lemon, peach, and white flower. The palate is crisp and fresh with green apple and lime zest making an appearance before finishing crisp and dry with a juicy acidity. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	90	Weir Family Vineyard Vinyassa 2014 Niagara Peninsula (Canada), CAD13.95 , <i>seeking US Importer</i>
		Pale straw in color, this low-cal wine is redolent of ripe yellow apples. In the mouth, it's all lemon-lime, with hints of soft pear and oyster shell. Vibrant and bright yet clean, crisp and easy-drinking. Excellent, Highly Recommended

White Wines

Other White Varietals - World

Award	Score	
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Chairman's Trophy	93	The Islander Estate Vineyards Wally White Semillon 2012 Kangaroo Island (Australia), AUDn/a , seeking US Importer
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Golden yellow in color with specks of green, this Semillon opens up with an intense nose of vanilla, citrus and toast. In the mouth, it's lush and round with notes of butter and honey and a fragrant vanilla finish. **Excellent, Highly Recommended**

White Wines

Sweet White Wines - World

Award	Score	
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Finalist	91	Barefoot Refresh Sweet White California (United States), \$7.99
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Candied lime and kiwi burst from the glass. Bright lemon and sweet candied apple and citrus with floral undertones are sweet and spritzy on the tongue. The dry finish is enhanced by a gentle chalky minerality. **Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended**

Finalist	91	Quady Winery Electra Orange Muscat 2013 California (United States), \$14.00
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Very perfumed on the nose with orange marmalade, patchouli, almond butter, candied mango, and dried apricot. On the palate it is nutty, sweet, and luscious with preserved peach and mango which last into a citrusy and sweet finish. **Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended**

White Wines

Assorted Whites - France

Award	Score	
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Chairman's Trophy	95	Louis Baisinbert "La Pièce sous le Bois" Premier Cru Meursault 2011 Bourgogne (France), \$110.00
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A classy chardonnay. The oak is integrated into a light cream and subtly savory palate. This wine is light and delicate while leaving an imprint on the palate. There is saline minerality, joined by red apples and wild strawberries. **Extraordinary, Ultimate Recommendation**

Finalist	94	Louis Baisinbert Grand Cru Corton-Charlemagne 2011 Bourgogne (France), \$185.00	Exquisite. A terroir-driven chardonnay with a good dose of saline minerality, rocks and fruit. All parts are integrated with a gentle, curving spine of acidity. Hints of tropical white flowers, frangipani comes to mind, emerge in the palate. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	93	Barton & Guestier 2013 Pouilly-Fuisse (France), \$25.99	Golden hue. There are charred wood and intense baked pear aromas in the bouquet. An opulent and rich Chardonnay, with moderate acidity and big toasty oak flavors. The finish is long and carries a hint of minerality. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	92	Bouchard Aine & Fils Chardonnay 2013 Macon-Villages (France), \$16.99	Straw colored. Poached apple on the nose, along with fresh ripe Anjou pears and hay. An elegant wine that is light bodied and restrained. White fruits come through on the palate, joined by white flowers and a hint of vanilla. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	91	Barton & Guestier Chenin Blanc 2013 Vouvray (France), \$11.99	A very pretty and highly aromatic nose of hay and honey, both show up again on the palate, mingled with pit fruits and green apple skins. Light-bodied, with balanced acidity, this is a delicate wine. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	91	Barton & Guestier 2014 Sancerre (France), \$21.99	Precise aromas of lemon peel, green apple, honeydew melon, and grass. The palate is pleasantly grassy and tropical with a touch of grapefruit zest and the finish is super crisp with a racy acidity and citrus. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended

White Wines

Assorted Whites - Italy

Award	Score
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Chairman's Trophy	93	Barone Fini Pinot Grigio 2013 Valdadige (Italy), \$11.99
		Pale ecru/oyster color is bright and pure. Fresh, crisp and tart fragrance highlights minerals, dry earth, as in arid desert, fruit stone. Taste profile is long on finesse and intense grapiness. Concludes medium long in the throat, tart, acidic. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended

Finalist	90	Alta Luna Pinot Grigio 2014 Dolomiti (Italy), \$13.99
		A pale lemon-lime in the glass with crisp aromas of apple, lime, and pear. The palate is crisp and mineral-driven with delicate notes of apple and cucumber that last on a very fresh and lively finish. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended

White Wines

Assorted Whites - Portugal

Award	Score	
Chairman's Trophy	93	Quinta do Quetzal Antao Vaz 2012 Vidigueira (Portugal), \$35.00
		Wonderfully complex nose of toasted hazelnut, lemon oil, blossom, and apricot. The palate carries a slight nuttiness with ripe melon notes, citrus pith, and more stone fruits. The finish has a graceful salinity and opulent stone fruit. Excellent, Highly Recommended

Finalist	92	Monte da Ravasqueria Reserva Branco 2013 Alentejo (Portugal), \$16.00
		Heady and tropical aromas of lychee, mango, kiwi, and pineapple stalk fill the nose. The palate is more delicate with citrus and salty minerals which lead onto a very fresh and crisp finish. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended

White Wines

Assorted Whites - Spain

Award	Score	
Chairman's Trophy	93	Javier Sanz V Malcorta Verdejo Malcorta 2014 Rueda (Spain), €20.00
		Vibrant grassy and piquant green pepper aromas lead to a sweet ripe palate of apples, ground cherries and Cantaloupe melon. The acidity is subtle yet present and the enticing fruit persists in the finish. Excellent, Highly Recommended

Finalist	92	Cuatro Rayas Vinedos Centenarios Verdejo 2014 Rueda (Spain), €n/a , seeking US Importer
		An earthy core shines through on the aromas, offering notes of fennel and fresh herbs. Ripe white stone fruit opens the palate, turning to crisp green apple and white flowers. Each layer as refreshing as the last. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	91	Flor Innata Verdejo 2014 Rueda (Spain), \$8.00
		Aromas of moss and earth mix with more delicate elements of lilies and light musk. The floral elements lead on the rounded palate with supporting notes of meyer lemon and piquant spice that leaves the tongue with a pleasant slight tingle. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	91	Hacienda Zorita Vega de la Reina Verdejo 2014 Rueda (Spain), \$13.99
		Wonderful nose of grapefruit, white flower, wet stones, and a touch of apricot and mint. Fruit takes a backseat to minerals on the palate which hints at the mineral-driven, citrusy finish that follows. Very fresh and delicious. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended

White Wines

Assorted Whites - Eastern Mediterranean

Award	Score	
Chairman's Trophy	94	Yarden Chardonnay 2013 Golan Heights (Israel), \$20.00
		A deep golden color. Fragrant perfume of lemon, vanilla and butter gives way to a bright yet silky body. On the palate, it's lemon curd, sweet cream and a vibrant pineapple note. Well integrated oak, fine balance. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	92	Vinkara Narince 2014 Tokat (Turkey), \$14.99
		Fresh aromas of yellow nectarine and lime blossom and both sweet and savory. A gentle spritz on the palate adds to the refreshing effect, complemented by the mineral driven flavors. More stone fruit and green apples continue on the finish. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended

Finalist	91	Domaine Wardy Clos Blanc 2014 Bekaa Valley (Lebanon), LBPn/a , seeking US Importer
<p>Gently spicy on the nose mixed with aromas of tart green apples. Bright on the palate with white pepper, granny smith apples and hints of smoked white pepper. A distinct savory quality adds depth to this refreshing wine. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>		

Red Wines

Cabernet Sauvignon - World

Award	Score	
Chairman's Trophy	96	J. Lohr Carol's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2012 Napa Valley (United States), \$40.00
<p>Black plum and hints of green vegetation mingle on the nose. Velvety and rich on the palate, it offers flavors of concentrated blackcurrants, green forest twigs and lightly toasted vanilla custard. The finish is dry with a smooth leathery texture. Extraordinary, Ultimate Recommendation</p>		

Finalist	95	Backstage Cabernet Sauvignon 2012 Napa Valley (United States), \$80.00
<p>A ruby hued wine, with a lush, ripe blackberry fruit and dark chocolate perfume. Powdery tannins melt on the tongue, while dark fruit and roasted coffee bean character excite. The finish is simultaneously savory and sweet. Extraordinary, Ultimate Recommendation</p>		

Finalist	95	Lorenzi Estate Cabernet Sauvignon 2011 Temecula (United States), \$48.00
<p>Warm and toasty aromas of plum tart, cassis, and sweet, spicy oak rise from the glass. Equally toasty on the palate with cooked blackberry, dark plum, and a touch of baking spice. The finish is smooth, yet balanced by brambly blackberry fruit. Extraordinary, Ultimate Recommendation</p>		

Finalist	94	J. Lohr Hilltop Cabernet Sauvignon 2012 Paso Robles (United States), \$35.00
<p>Roasted cranberry and dried pomegranate seed aromas suggest a concentrated and powerful wine. On the palate it is incredibly concentrated with rich and deep fruit, cocoa, and light roasted coffee bean. Long lasting complexity. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>		

Finalist	94	Storyteller Cabernet Sauvignon 2013 Sonoma County (United States), \$14.99	Woodsy and cassis aromas exude from the glass. The palate shows the same, with dark plums, blackcurrants and grape stems. Tannins give this wine backbone and structure. One to drink now or put it in the cellar to age. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	93	14 Hands The Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2012 Horse Heaven Hills (United States), \$30.00	Brooding aromas of blackberry liqueur, eucalyptus, pine resin, and dried cranberries backed by tar. Dark and smooth fruit on the palate with a touch of spice and pepper give way to a soft, yet robust finish with sweet oak. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	93	J. McClelland Cabernet Sauvignon 2012 Oak Knoll District (United States), \$39.99	A crush of chunky berry fruit and cassis on the nose gives way to a mouthful of sweet juicy fruit. character laced with notes of mochaccino, eucalyptus and a whiff of vanilla on the finish. Tannins are beefy yet supple. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	93	Louis M. Martini Cabernet Sauvignon 2012 Alexander Valley (United States), \$34.00	Decadent and deep nose of oiled saddle leather, baked cherry cobbler, goji berry, and strawberry compote. Voluptuous on the palate with rich blackberry, tobacco, and vanilla flavors. The finish is silky smooth. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	93	Rodney Strong Estate Cabernet Sauvignon 2012 Alexander Valley (United States), \$28.00	Aromas of mixed plums and vanilla are warm on the nose. In the mouth it is soft and round with flavors of dried herbs and black fruit. A long finish is characterized by toasted vanilla and charred firewood. Excellent, Highly Recommended

Red Wines

Pinot Noir - World

Award	Score
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Chairman's Trophy	95	SeaGlass Pinot Noir 2013 Santa Barbara County (United States), \$12.00
		Violets and crushed rose petals define the floral aromas of this wine. Deep plum fruit and raspberry preserves are ripe and aromatic on the palate. Earthy mushroom and soft vanilla taffy underscore the long lasting flavors. Great Value. Extraordinary, Ultimate Recommendation
Finalist	94	Rodney Strong Estate Pinot Noir 2013 Russian River Valley (United States), \$25.00
		Bright red cherry, goji berry, and strawberry compote aromas fill the nose. Also a touch of blossom. Clementine zest and red raspberry marry well on the palate along with strawberry and chalky minerals. The finish is bright and juicy. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	93	Davis Bynum Jane's Vineyard Single Vineyard Pinot Noir 2013 Russian River Valley (United States), \$35.00
		Pale ruby color. Toffee, cherries and oak in the perfume. Spicy and woody palate with hints of caramel and Bing cherries. Light tannins and bright acidity sing on that palate, while the finish ends with juicy cherries. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	93	Devil's Corner Pinot Noir 2013 Tasmania (Australia), AUDn/a , <i>seeking US Importer</i>
		Fresh and dried cherries are unmistakable on the pungent nose. Pillow soft on the palate, this highly aromatic wine offers flavors of red fruits, green and brown moss, and maraschino cherry skin. The overall effect is kept vibrant and juicy. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	93	Forchini Vineyards & Winery Pinot Noir 2011 Dry Creek Valley (United States), \$36.00
		Powerful toasty aromas mingle with red fruit and flower blossoms on the nose. In the mouth the fruit is ripe and aromatic yet balanced alongside the earthy complexities of minerals, vanilla and spice. The texture is silken and indulgent. Excellent, Highly Recommended

Finalist	92	Balletto Vineyards Sexton Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir 2013 Russian River Valley (United States), \$42.00
<p>A delightful nose consisting of violets and raspberries, with a hint of vanilla and mocha. All follow through on the palate, joined by fresh blueberries and fruits of the forest. Medium tannins and bright acidity balances the sweet fruit. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>		
Finalist	92	Cross River Pinot Noir 2013 Wairarapa Valley (New Zealand), \$18.99
<p>Bright aromas of cherry blossoms and red berries are pungent and inviting. In the mouth the fruit is ripe with nice complements of green herbs, violets and hints of baking spice. The flavors are well integrated on this delicately textured yet full flavored wine. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>		
Finalist	92	Row Eleven Dutton-Sanchietti Pinot Noir 2011 Russian River Valley (United States), \$28.99
<p>Compelling nose of charred oak, baked red cherries, sun-dried tomatoes, and beet root. The palate is ripe and smoky with a savory edge, like fire-roasted meats and dried cherries. The finish is smoky and smooth. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>		

Red Wines

Merlot - World

Award	Score	
Chairman's Trophy	96	Rodney Strong Merlot 2012 Sonoma County (United States), \$20.00
<p>Boysenberries and minerals are elegant on the nose. Sweet ripe plums and berries give way to baking spices, minerals, fresh young herbs and then turn into a toasted oak with vanilla ornaments. Smooth and silky through the finish. Great Value. Extraordinary, Ultimate Recommendation</p>		

Finalist	93	14 Hands The Reserve Merlot 2011 Horse Heaven Hills (United States), \$30.00
		Blackberry pie is an inviting aroma. The ripe and sumptuous fruit is supported by a core of strong minerality with hints of mint and vanilla. This is a soft wine with a firm structure, creating an exceptional balance in the mouth. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	91	Gallo Family Vineyards Merlot California (United States), \$4.99
		Dark plum, black raspberry, vanilla bean, and rosemary fill the nose with a touch of violet petal. Rich and mouth-filling black currant and vanilla flavors on the palate are backed by oak and earth which linger onto the finish. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	91	Le Vigne Winery Merlot 2012 Paso Robles (United States), \$19.00
		Supple and fruity aromas are pretty and inviting. The ripe flavors range from plums and raspberry preserves to dark chocolate and earthy forest floor. Smooth on the palate the texture is silken, creating a luxurious effect. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended

Red Wines

Shiraz/Syrah - World

Award	Score	
Chairman's Trophy	97	Murray Street Vineyards Black Label Shiraz 2012 Barossa Valley (Australia), AUDn/a , <i>seeking US Importer</i>
		Smoke, bacon fat and potpourri aromas waft from the glass of this gutsy wine, along with a hint of shrub. The palate is piercing, giving away prune and sultana raisins, silky tannins and bright, perky acidity. Extraordinary, Ultimate Recommendation
Finalist	95	Bremerton Selkirk Shiraz 2012 Langhorne Creek (Australia), AUDn/a , <i>seeking US Importer</i>
		Dusty cherries, earth and campfire in the bouquet, along with hints cocoa powder. Charred wood and dark fruits enter the palate, showing dark plums, blue and black berries, with a finish reminiscent of dark chocolate. Extraordinary, Ultimate Recommendation

Finalist	92	Battle of Bosworth Shiraz 2012 McLaren Vale (Australia), AUDn/a , seeking US Importer
		Dark purple in color, this wine opens up with a nose of wild, red fruits. In the mouth, the flavors are brambly and ripe with a smack of oak spice and a hint of barnyard on the finish. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	92	Bolder TM Don't Hesitate Shiraz 2013 McLaren Vale (Australia), AUDn/a , seeking US Importer
		Rich aromas of berries, warm spices and chocolate are comforting and inviting. In the mouth it is juicy and ripe with berry jam, cinnamon, clove, and a hint of cola and blueberry. Fully mouth coating, the structure is soft and plush. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	92	Gatt High Eden Shiraz 2010 Barossa Valley (Australia), AUDn/a , seeking US Importer
		Garnet-brown hue. Intensely cooked fruit on the nose with a hint of ash and dried thyme. Lush plums and bananas flambé fill the palate, laced with cinnamon and nutmeg spice. The tannins are soft, as is the acidity. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	92	K1 by Geoff Hardy Middle Hill Shiraz 2012 Adelaide Hills (Australia), AUDn/a , seeking US Importer
		Bursting with a plummy perfume and an aromatic crack of black pepper, this inky purple wine is all dark chocolate-covered cherries on the palate. Juicy yet rich, it's silky in the mouth with dry yet approachable tannins. Excellent, Highly Recommended

Red Wines

Malbec - World

Award	Score	
Chairman's Trophy	93	Zuccardi Q La Consulta & Vista Flores Malbec 2012 Uco Valley (Argentina), \$20.00
		Opaque garnet hue with a complex nose of floral violet aromas and cured meat. Woody tannins are sturdy, enveloping flavors of cassis, dark plums, blackberries and black peppercorns. Tannins are persistent, leaving a long finish. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended

Finalist	91	Espuela del Gaucho Reserve Malbec 2013 Argentina (Argentina), \$12.99
		A spicy nose with aromas of black pepper, black plums and stewed cherries is rich and deep. In the mouth the flavors are layered with green herbaceousness and tart blackberries. A dusty dark chocolate finish leaves the mouth pleasantly dry. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	91	Gimenez Riili Gran Familia Malbec 2013 Uco Valley (Argentina), ARSn/a , seeking US Importer
		Garnet with a ruby rim hue. Cedar and bacon notes in the bouquet give way to curried spice and banana peel. The palate is assertive, showing rocky terrain and juicy, lingering fruit reminiscent of black cherries and blackcurrants. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Red Wines		
Zinfandel - USA		
Award	Score	
Chairman's Trophy	94	Lorenzi Estate Lopez Ranch Zinfandel 2011 Temecula (United States), \$48.00
		Black cherries and moist forest floor create layers of aromas. Cranberry and red cherries are tart and ripe on the palate, giving way to earthy cocoa and minerals. Soft and velvety in texture with a cassis like finish. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	93	Rodney Strong Knotty Vines Zinfandel 2012 Northern Sonoma County (United States), \$25.00
		Garnet hue and ruby rim appearance. Dark oak dominates the nose, while big, jammy, cooked fruits attack the palate. Morello cherry confiture, blackcurrant jam and cocoa powder all linger in the mouth. The tannins are rather soft and luscious in this full-bodied and gutsy wine. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended

Finalist	93	<p>Scotto Family Cellars Old Vine Zinfandel 2011 Lodi (United States), \$13.99</p> <p>Red and dark fruits can be detected on the nose. In the mouth, it's all bright cherry, oak accents and the whiff of vanilla on the finish. A juicy, easy-drinking wine with gently, approachable tannins. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>
Finalist	92	<p>Keg Springs Winery Zinfandel 2013 American (United States), \$25.00</p> <p>Fresh blueberries and spice are pungent on the nose. Round and soft in the mouth with mouth coating chocolate liqueur, blackberries and dried blueberries create layers of sumptuous flavor. Smooth tannins flesh out the full and rich wine. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>
<p>Red Wines</p> <p>Red Blends - North America</p>		
Award	Score	
Chairman's Trophy	95	<p>Columbia Composition Red Blend Columbia Valley (United States), \$14.00</p> <p>Ripe bing cherry, rhubarb, cranberry, and licorice mingle with black tea and baking spice on the nose. Very smooth and fruit-forward on the palate with rich cherry fruit, integrated tannins, and a touch of cinnamon which alludes to the soft and fruity finish. Great Value. Extraordinary, Ultimate Recommendation</p>
Finalist	95	<p>Shadowlands Red 2013 Washington (United States), \$12.99</p> <p>Aromas are layered with blackberry fruit leather, wet moss, and green vegetation all mingling in the glass. On the palate the dark earthiness comes through ripe blackberries. A dark cocoa core gives way to roasted green pepper and a touch of cinnamon. Full and smooth. Extraordinary, Ultimate Recommendation</p>
Finalist	93	<p>Lorenzi Estate The Phantom Red Blend 2011 Temecula (United States), \$48.00</p> <p>Stewed plums and dried dates come to mind on the nose as well as baked black cherries. The palate is dense with cassis and sultry vanilla bean. The finish is very rich and semisweet with cassis and olives. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>

Finalist	93	<p>Rodney Strong Symmetry Red Meritage 2012 Alexander Valley (United States), \$55.00</p> <p>Cassis and black raspberry are rich and dark on the nose. Equally concentrated in the mouth, the fruit is dark and intense, enhanced by charred wood and mineral rich soil. A hint of earthy mushroom and herbs comes through on the spicy finish.</p> <p>Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>
Finalist	93	<p>Save Me San Francisco Drops of Jupiter Red Blend 2012 California (United States), \$12.00</p> <p>Ripe and fruit-forward on the nose with boysenberry, baked plum, blueberry compote, and blackberry seeds. Equally fruit-forward on the palate with silky tannins, ripe blackberry, baking spice and a touch of pepper. The finish is smooth a succulent with lots of fruit. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>
Finalist	92	<p>Cell Block Shackled Red 2013 Sonoma County (United States), \$19.99</p> <p>Fresh red berry fruits, watermelon, and cola nut alongside toasted oak and saddle leather on the nose. Once in the mouth it shows bright dark fruits and is well-structured. The finish is reminiscent of the nose with a play between sweet and savory.</p> <p>Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>
Finalist	92	<p>J. Lohr Cuvee St. E 2011 Paso Robles (United States), \$50.00</p> <p>Leafy, savory, and powerful nose dotted with stewed plum and sweet red cherries. On the palate it is unctuous and rich with heavy blackberry fruits, ripe plum, tar, and sweet oak. The finish is semisweet with ample fruit. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>
Finalist	92	<p>Jewelry Box Red Blend 2013 California (United States), \$27.99, 3L Box</p> <p>Luscious aromas of red currant, red raspberry, chocolate, and cola make up the nose. On the palate it's chocolate and coffee beans with blackberry jam and red currant. Very soft with silky tannins and a fruity finish. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>

Red Wines

Red Blends - Southern Hemisphere

Award	Score	
Chairman's Trophy	94	<p>Akana Old Vines 2012 Rapel Valley (Chile), CLPn/a</p> <p>This old vine wine offers a pungent and elegant nose with aromas of blackberries and rich charred earth. Equally powerful in the mouth with concentrated blackberries and blackcurrants, thyme and a gentle toasted coconut finish. The integrated softened tannins create a suede texture. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>
Finalist	92	<p>MontGras GSC 2012 Colchagua (Chile), \$18.99</p> <p>Cherry cola is pungent on the wild berry laden and playful nose. Spicy and dark with charred earth and green forest foliage, this decidedly earthy wine is kept vibrant by fresh raspberry flavors. Firm tannins provide structure. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>
Finalist	92	<p>Zucardi La Consulta Tito Red Blend 2011 Uco Valley (Argentina), \$38.00</p> <p>Vivid and lively plums and pomegranate dance on the nose. Bold flavors of strawberry liqueur and tangerine zest mingle with tar and plums on the palate. These flavors hint at the intense and fruit-forward finish to come. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>
Finalist	91	<p>Bremerton Tamblyn Cabernet-Shiraz-Malbec-Merlot 2012 Langhorne Creek (Australia), AUDn/a , seeking US Importer</p> <p>Hints of cola and baked plum are plush and sumptuous on the nose. Layers of flavor unfold one at a time revealing fresh berries, vanilla stewed fruit, slightly charred toast and a touch of smoke on the grippy finish. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>
Finalist	91	<p>Epica Red Wine 2013 Valle Central (Chile), \$12.99</p> <p>Luscious and gulpable, this medium-bodied red opens up with a nose of ripe red fruit and a hint of the herbaceous. In the mouth, it's juicy, sweet, like chocolate-covered cherries, balanced out by a seductively savory minerality. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>

Red Wines

Other Red Varietals - World

Award	Score	
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Chairman's Trophy	95	MontGras Estate Reserva Carmenere 2014 Colchagua Valley (Chile), \$12.99
		Deep garnet color. A ripe nose of stewed black fruit, earthy black pepper and a whiff of licorice. On the palate, it's black cherry juice laced with graphite and wood smoke. Supple tannins and a silky texture. Great Value. Extraordinary, Ultimate Recommendation
Finalist	93	J. McClelland Charbono 2012 Napa Valley (United States), \$39.99
		Inky purple in the glass, it bursts with dark, brooding fruit aromas and a hint of anise. Concentrated flavors of plum, blackcurrant and spice are layered with a savory, herbaceous character. Structured yet suave with velvety tannins. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	92	Lenz Moser Prestige Blaufrankisch Barrique 2011 Burgenland (Austria), \$19.99
		Medium-bodied, with fresh, juicy, mouth-watering fruits reminiscent of summer berries. There is a whiff and taste of mulling spices, think cinnamon, clove, nutmeg and ginger, all laced with a note of vanilla oak. The finish is long and almost sweet. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended

Red Wines

Sweet Red Wines - World

Award	Score	
Chairman's Trophy	93	VOGA Italia Dolce Rosso Sicily (Italy), \$10.99
		Deeply pungent with thick green vegetation and roasted red fruits. Lightly sweet in the mouth the flavors are developed with red raspberry fruit leather and bright blood orange and a touch of saddle leather. Complex and tasty. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	91	Gallo Family Vineyards Red Moscato California (United States), \$4.99
		Refreshing aromas of strawberry lemonade, white peach, overripe pear, and candied rose petals rise from the glass. The palate is sumptuous and sweet with peach and berries leading into a finish dotted with fruit, flowers, and a lingering sweetness. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended

Finalist	91	Quady Winery Red Electra Moscato 2013 California (United States), \$14.00
<p>Sumptuous notes of baked plum, dried fig, apricot, strawberry jam, and boysenberry rise from the glass. On the palate it is sweet and round with plentiful red berry jam, tangerine, confectionary watermelon, and dried cherry. The finish is sweet and dotted with fruit. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>		

Red Wines

Assorted Reds - Eastern Mediterranean

Award	Score	
Chairman's Trophy	94	Domaine des Tourelles Marquis des Beys 2011 Bekaa Valley (Lebanon), \$19.00
<p>More savory than fruity on the nose: pine pitch, burnt orange peel, fire roasted olives, and tomatoes on the vine with cooked plums. The palate continues on the savory side with dried herbs and cured meats that crescendo with fresh figs, blackberries, and spice at the finish. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>		
Finalist	92	Suvla Wines Karasakiz 2013 Gallipoli Peninsular (Turkey), \$16.99
<p>A unique wine with aromas of fresh and stewed strawberries, dried violets and moist rich soil. Completely smooth in the mouth with generous sweet ripe red berries, spicy dried herbs and a hint of barnyard. The firm tannins add a rustic touch. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>		
Finalist	91	Chateau Ka Source de Rouge 2011 Bekaa Valley (Lebanon), \$8.00
<p>Bright and fresh on the nose with exotic papaya, red raspberry, chalky strawberry, tomato leaf, and tarragon on the nose. Medium-bodied and lively on the palate, it shows bright cherry liqueur, spice box, and tobacco flavors marked by a fresh acidity that lasts onto the fruity finish. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>		

Finalist	91	Suvla Wines Cabernet Sauvignon 2012 Gallipoli Peninsular (Turkey), \$16.99
		Cranberries, charred earth, dried herbs and smoky bramble create a savory nose. In the mouth there is plenty of wildberry, leather, smoked cranberries and forest floor. A slightly leathery texture adds to the wild and rustic effect of this earthy wine. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	91	Urla Nexus 2013 Aegean (Turkey), \$40.00
		Deep garnet hue. There is a bouquet of dessert shrubs, milk chocolate and cinnamon spice. Intense fruits, in the form of candied berries, coat the mouth. The finish is long, leaving behind sturdy tannins, priming the palate for food. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	91	Vinkara Kalecik Karasi 2013 Ankara (Turkey), \$14.99
		A pungent nose full of wild berries, dark cherries and earthy bramble. Full flavored in the mouth with bright red fruits, more earthy bramble and rich undertones of light roasted coffee. Vibrant and juicy, this is a clean and joyful wine. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended

Red Wines

Assorted Reds - France

Award	Score	
Chairman's Trophy	96	Louis Bernard 2012 Cotes du Rhone Villages (France), \$13.99
		A bright, vibrant yet medium-bodied red wine. There is a complex bouquet made up of incense, kirsch and a little smoke. Silky textured, with plush black cherries on the palate, and just the faintest trace of black pepper. Great Value. Extraordinary, Ultimate Recommendation
Finalist	95	Bonpas 2010 Chateauneuf du Pape (France), \$46.00
		Garrigue and parched earth nose. A complex wine with secondary flavors of dried herbs, stony minerality and black pepper. While offering complexity, there is juicy dark fruits on the palate, backed by firm tannins and good acidity. Extraordinary, Ultimate Recommendation

Finalist	94	Barton & Guestier Chateau Magnol 2012 Haut-Medoc (France), \$24.99
		Telling notes of black currant, cedar, pipe tobacco, and cracked black pepper on the nose. The palate shows restraint with dark fruits balanced by savory herbs and a toasted spice. The finish lingers with blackberry and a touch of coffee bean. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	94	Thomas Barton Reserve 2012 Margaux (France), \$36.99
		Purple-ruby color. Chocolate, vanilla bean and toasted coffee bean aromas, all following through on the palate, along with supple plum and blackberry character. A rich, dry and tannic wine with a good dose of spice. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	93	Cave Brun Despagne Heritage 2011 Bordeaux Superior Controlee (France), \$15.99
		Old world nose of restrained dark berry fruits, cedar, minty pipe tobacco, dried thyme and a touch of green bell pepper. Then the palate skews more savory and herbal with a touch of cassis which lasts onto and equally savory finish. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	93	Chateau Leoube Forts de Leoube Red Blend 2011 Cotes de Provence (France), \$30.00
		Bright blood red/purple color. First inhalations encounter keenly peppery, mildly toasted, stony, tobacco-like notes that evolve into concentrated, almost jammy grape-driven, plummy scents. Like the multilayered bouquet, the flavor profile offers a full menu of taste, such as plum preserves, black cherry, black plum, black raisins that last deep into the zesty aftertaste. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	93	Chateau Macay Red 2011 Cotes de Bourg (France), \$17.99
		Deep garnet core with a ruby rim appearance. After swirling, cedar, musk and dark cherries emerge from the glass. The palate has fruit-like acidity and powerful, big chocolate tannins coat the mouth ending in a taste of orange rind and macerated cherries. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended

Finalist	93	Fortant Mountains Grand Reserve Carignan 2012 Pays d'Oc (France), \$19.99	Spicy and vibrant on the nose with lots of black pepper and ripe blackberries. Silky and bright on the tongue with distinct black peppercorns, mace, and smooth berries. The dry finish is perfumed with plum skin, berries and more black pepper. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	93	Pavillon Haut-Lestage 2011 Saint-Emilion Grand Cru (France), \$39.99	A ripe fruity nose laced with hints of violets in the background gives way to a rich, round palate. Dark, brooding fruit flavors are layered with hints of oak spice, graphite and cocoa bean. Solid yet supple structure. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Red Wines			
Assorted Reds - Italy			
Award	Score		
Chairman's Trophy	94	Vigneti Zabu II Passo 2013 Sicily (Italy), \$19.99	Deep garnet in color, it opens up with a ripe nose of stewed red fruit and a whiff of the herbaceous. On the palate, it's rich with a solid tannic structure. The fruit character carries through, layered with a seductive savoriness. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	93	Brancaia Tre Red Blend 2012 Tuscany (Italy), \$23.00	Sumptuous nose reminiscent of dark chocolate covered cherries, cedar, dark plum, and pomegranate. Rich and full in the mouth, with cassis, tobacco, and earth giving way to a fruit-forward and elegant finish. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	93	Brugnano Honoris Causa 2011 Sicily (Italy), \$32.00	Incredibly rich and inviting aromas of cassis and toasted earthy jump from the glass. Deep and bold, this firmly structured wine offers ripe leathery tannins with restrained red and black berries, sun baked cherries and smoke. Excellent, Highly Recommended

Finalist	92	San Felo Diciocatore 2011 Tuscany (Italy), €70.00
		Roasted raspberries with a hint of toast and bramble create a compellingly complex nose. Classic sour cherry and wild herbs mix with cooked dark plums within the firm structure of this wine. Strong tannins create a clean and dry finish. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	91	Alta Luna Phases 2010 Dolomiti (Italy), \$13.99
		Coffee and cassis are restrained on the lightly pungent nose. Bold in the mouth with tart black raspberry and currants. Spicy dried herbs are followed by a charcuterie characteristic combining sweet and savory elements through the dry finish. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	91	Spasso Rosso 2011 Tuscany (Italy), \$10.99
		An opulent and spicy wine with layers of baking spices and blueberries. Focus in the mouth with bright red fruit flavors, charred earth and blackened herbs. Leathery in texture, the structure is firm with a strong mineral finish. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Red Wines		
Assorted Reds - Portugal		
Award	Score	
Chairman's Trophy	95	Quinta do Quetzal Reserva 2011 Vidigueira (Portugal), \$35.00
		A nose rich with strawberry compote, oiled saddle leather, toast, and a distinct malty sweetness rises from the glass. The palate is supple but structured with dark fruits and burnt earth. The finish is very smooth and dry. Extraordinary, Ultimate Recommendation
Finalist	93	Porta 6 2012 Lisboa (Portugal), \$9.99
		Green bell pepper skin and boysenberry aromas play in the glass. Intensely ripe on the palate with flavors of plums, cranberry sauce and sweet blackberries complemented by earthy minerals that give way to a light coffee flavor on the finish. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended

Finalist	92	H.O. Reserva Red 2012 Douro (Portugal), €14.90 , <i>seeking US Importer</i>
		Herbs and berries abound on this fresh and aromatic wine. On the full bodied palate there is an explosion of ripe juicy blackberries followed by dried thyme. Subtle hints of vanilla add a creamy element to the fine grained tannins. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	92	Herdade do Perdigao Villa Romanu 2014 Alentejo (Portugal), €2.00 , <i>seeking US Importer</i>
		Aromas of cherries and berries are pure and focused. A gentle spritz is lively on the palate with plenty of fresh red berries, cherries and hints of violets. An earthy accent of black coffee is a subtle and exciting undertone. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	92	Quinta de Lemos Jaen 2010 Dao (Portugal), \$35.00
		A warm and toasty nose of roasted red fruits and freshly chopped wood. Quite spicy on the palate with star anise and clove, it develops in the earthy direction with notes of leather and roasted poblano pepper. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	92	Quinta de Lemos Alfrocheiro 2010 Dao (Portugal), \$35.00
		Red currants and plum tomato create a balanced nose of earthy and sweet aromas. On the palate the flavors are decidedly more savory with a distinct meatiness and mineral rich core, with hints of blackcurrants. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	92	Quinta de Lemos Dona Georgina 2010 Dao (Portugal), \$61.00
		Roasted cranberries and charred herbs characterize the earthy and toasty aroma. The palate bursts with ripe blue and blackberries, dark chocolate and hints of oregano. Slightly leathery for a rustic yet smooth effect in the mouth. Excellent, Highly Recommended

Red Wines

Assorted Reds - Spain

Award	Score
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Chairman's Trophy	97	Vega Real Crianza 2009 Ribera del Duero (Spain), \$15.99
		Dark and earthy, this wine has bold aromas of roasted earth and black plum flesh. Roasted cranberry and raspberry are focused and supported by considerable earthiness with accents of pine and forest floor. A cocoa powder laden finish leaves the mouth clean. Great Value. Extraordinary, Ultimate Recommendation
Finalist	96	Hacienda Abascal Crianza Tempranillo 2010 Arribes del Duero (Spain), \$20.99
		Spicy and open on the nose with red berries, orange peel, licorice, and sweet spice. Somewhat restrained on the palate, showing more herbal and spicy flavors with cassis and strawberry leading the way to the earthy, yet fruity, finish. Great Value. Extraordinary, Ultimate Recommendation
Finalist	95	Federico Paternina Gran Reserva 2006 Rioja (Spain), \$25.99
		Barnyard and earthy aromas waft from the glass, with a whiff of old wood. The palate has ripe fruit flavors and a taste of leather. There is complex, secondary character from the age, in the form of mushrooms and bacon. Extraordinary, Ultimate Recommendation
Finalist	94	Arnegui Reserva 2010 Rioja (Spain), \$22.00
		Demure aromas of saddle leather and stewed raspberries with a hint of vanilla are warm and appealing. Firmly structured on the palate with a generous amount of bright berry preserves and toasted vanilla. The suede like texture is smooth and well integrated. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	94	Marques de la Concordia Reserva 2009 Rioja (Spain), \$20.99
		A smoky charred berry aroma is at once earthy and fruity. Similarly earthy and smoky on the palate with berries, dried cherries and wild mountain herbs. Sturdy and focused, the texture is smooth and silky. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended

Finalist	94	Vina Albali Tempranillo 2013 Valdepeñas (Spain), \$8.99
<p>A medium pungent nose of cassis, violet, and cherry aromas. The fruit takes on a darker tone in the mouth with fresh blackberries and a green peppery note. Firm and a bit grainy in texture, the tongue is laden with a slight cinnamon spice. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>		

Finalist	94	Vina Albali Gran Reserva de Familia 2008 Valdepeñas (Spain), \$35.00
<p>Blood red color is nearly opaque. The nose is acutely peppery, pruny, raisiny, tannic, leathery, even a little pipe tobacco-like, but alluring and dense. Taste profile is toasted, roasted, beany, oaky, vanilla-like, forest floor-like, concentrated. Concludes extra long, silky, viscous, peppery. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>		

Rosé & Blush Wines

Rosés - Europe

Award	Score	
Chairman's Trophy	93	Barton & Guestier La Villa Barton 2014 Cotes de Provence (France), \$19.99
<p>Brilliantly pale salmon in the glass with delicate aromas of white peach, apricot, and blossom. On the palate it is mineral-driven with a touch of stone fruit on the back end that leads into a peachy, crisp finish. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>		
Finalist	92	Barton & Guestier Rose 2014 Cotes de Provence (France), \$14.99
<p>Very pretty aromas of strawberries and cream with light Bing cherries and rich and pungent. Soft and lively, flavors of lemon zest mingle with white raspberry over a crisp core of minerality. Refreshing and light. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>		
Finalist	92	Stemmari Nero D'Avola 2014 Sicily (Italy), \$9.99
<p>A pretty blush-colored rosé, you'll find plenty of forest fruit coming through on the nose. In the mouth, it's lively and juicy with tart fruit character and a fine mineral edge. A rather bracing acidity makes this a total food wine. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>		

Finalist	91	Bouchard Aine & Fils Grenache Cinsault 2014 Beaune (France), \$10.99
		A classic nose of ripe strawberries, red raspberries, peach skin, and red flowers. Wonderfully dry on the palate with a gentle salinity, red berries, minerals, and a touch of citrus that last on a dry, berry-tinged finish. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	91	Estreia Rose 2014 Vinho Verde (Portugal), \$8.99
		A very pungent and layered nose with aromas of minerals, savory herbs, honey and ripe strawberries. In the mouth it is light and savory with elements of sea salt followed by deeply concentrated strawberries and rose petals. Refreshing with an impressive depth of flavor. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Dessert		
Ice Wine/Eiswein – World		
Award	Score	
Chairman's Trophy	95	Casa Larga Fiori Delle Stelle Estate Grown Vidal Blanc Ice Wine 2010 Finger Lakes (United States), \$39.99, 375 ml
		Fleshy, tropical, and lush on the nose with baked peach, orchard fruit, papaya, honeysuckle, and lychee. Sweet and unctuous on the palate, but with a balanced acidity, leads into a tropical, fresh finish. Outstanding. Extraordinary, Ultimate Recommendation
Finalist	94	Muenzenrieder Cuvee Ice Wine 2012 Neusiedlersee (Austria), \$26.99, 375 ml
		Vibrant gold color. Pineapple, fresh linen and must aromas in the bouquet. Super ripe apricots sing on the palate, and spice and honey coat the mouth. Fantastic acidity marries well with the intense sweetness. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	92	Villa Bellezza Frontenac Gris Ice Wine 2013 Upper Mississippi River Valley (United States), \$35.00, 375 ml
		Richly honeyed and slightly foxy on the nose with opulent marmalade, grilled mango, bergamot, and overripe pineapple. The palate is royally decadent with rich honey-coated peaches and candied orange peel. The finish is seemingly never ending. Excellent, Highly Recommended

Dessert

Tokaji/Tokai - Hungary

Award	Score	
Chairman's Trophy	96	Patricius Aszu 5 Puttonyos 2003 Tokaji (Hungary), \$44.99, 500 ml Opulent and tropical with telltale notes of baked apricot, fresh fig, honey, blossom, quince, and savory tamarind. Very fresh and tropical palate with apricot, nectarine, pineapple, and candied mango which leads to a fresh, almost saline, decadent finish. Extraordinary, Ultimate Recommendation

Fortified

Sherry - Spain

Award	Score	
Chairman's Trophy	97	Barbadillo Obiseco Gascon Palo Cortado Jerez-Xeres-Sherry (Spain), \$35.00 A baking spice laden nose full of roasted nut skin and toasted pine nuts. Savory and high toned flavors of toasted nuts develop into light coffee and butter crunch toffee. The finish is long, nutty and bone dry. Great Value. Extraordinary, Ultimate Recommendation
Finalist	95	Dios Baco Cream Sherry Jerez (Spain), \$25.00 Baking spices and dried figs characterize the nose. In the mouth it is sweet with nutty toasted hazelnuts, pine nuts and walnut skin. The gentle sweetness is freshened by the toasty richness that continue to develop after each sip. Great Value. Extraordinary, Ultimate Recommendation
Finalist	94	Dios Baco Elite Oloroso Jerez (Spain), \$25.00 Baking spice aromas with savory bouillon cube character. Dried apricots, dried banana and orange rind dominate the palate, with a hint of savory-salt. Flavors keep coming at you and the finish is nice and long. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended

Finalist	94	Dios Baco Elite Amontillado Jerez (Spain), \$25.00
		Gold-russet hue. Chestnut, honey and curry spice aromas and flavors. Dried fruits and hazelnuts come through on the palate, with a delightful oxidative note that gives this wine complexity. Simultaneously sweet and salty. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	94	Dry Sack Oloroso Solera Especial Sherry 15 Years Old Jerez-Xeres-Sherry (Spain), \$27.99
		Lavish nose of coffee bean, balsamic glazed walnuts, brine, baked apricot, brown sugar, and malty, barrel notes. Rich and molasses-tinged with nuts, excellent structure, coffee, chocolate, black tea, and olive. Very decadent finish. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	93	Barbadillo Cuco Oloroso Seco Jerez-Xeres-Sherry (Spain), \$28.00
		Spice cake, nutmeg, glazed carrots and date honey all unfurl on the nose. Dry in the mouth with bright toasted nuts, coffee beans and medium dark caramel all have a savory edge to them. Crisp and complex. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	93	Barbadillo Principe Amontillado Jerez-Xeres-Sherry (Spain), \$28.00
		Cinnamon, figs and honey all mingle on the aromatic nose. More spice with roasted chestnuts develop on the layered palate and turn into charred hazelnuts and light coffee. Complex and long lasting in the mouth. Excellent, Highly Recommended
Finalist	93	Barbadillo La Cilla Pedro Ximenez Jerez-Xeres-Sherry (Spain), \$25.00
		A striking balance of decadent molasses and baking spices and strong, earthy, umami oyster mushrooms on the nose. Also burnt orange peel and butter roasted nuts. Sumptuous and sweet on the palate with toffee and nutmeg charging onto the finish. Excellent, Highly Recommended

Finalist	93	Dios Baco Oxford 1.970 Pedro Ximenez Jerez (Spain), \$18.00, 500 ml
<p>Deeply colored, almost jet black. Dark, sinfully sweet aromas of molasses, chocolate crème, honey baked cashews, stewed plums, and spice. The palate is sultry and sweet with dried fig and raisins and the finish lasts forever. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>		

Fortified

Porto - Portugal

Award	Score	
Chairman's Trophy	93	Dow's Late Bottle Vintage Port 2009 Douro (Portugal), \$24.00
<p>A layered nose of fig, dates and chocolate is complex and warm. In the mouth it is sweet and rich, with robust flavors of chocolate, dried blueberry and dried fig. The texture is smooth and full, like crushed velvet. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>		

Fortified

Fortified (Sherry, Port) – North America

Award	Score	
Chairman's Trophy	94	Quady Starboard Batch 88 California (United States), \$24.99
<p>Aromas of cooked red fruits with spices are warm. Sweet in the mouth with considerable baking spice; clove, cinnamon and nutmeg mix with berry compote. The rich concentration has a nice herbal undertone and finishes dry. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>		

Fortified

Aperitif – World

Award	Score	
Chairman's Trophy	98	Tempus Fugit Kina l'Aero d'Oro Aperitif Wine Switzerland (Switzerland), \$31.99
<p>Deep amber in color, this intensely perfumed aperitif wine blooms in the glass with aromas of candied orange and preserved lemon. In the mouth, it's all marmalade and grapefruit zest, layered with ginger candy. Perfectly bitter-sweet. Great Value. Extraordinary, Ultimate Recommendation</p>		

Finalist	95	<p>Calvados Christian Drouin Pommeau de Normandie France (France), \$22.00</p> <p>Brilliant aromas of apple tart tatin, toasted oak, earthy blossom, citrus peel, and brown sugar. The palate has a balanced sweetness, loads of apple and spice flavors that lead into an intensely apple and brown sugar-laden finish. Fabulous.</p> <p>Great Value. Extraordinary, Ultimate Recommendation</p>
Finalist	94	<p>Lillet Rose Aperitif France (France), \$19.99</p> <p>Incredibly clean and fresh aromas of orange flesh and zest, lime zest, orange and cherry blossom are pretty. Lightly sweet with great depth of citrus and red fruits and generous floral flavors. The finish is equally deep with a clean minerality.</p> <p>Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>
Finalist	93	<p>Chateau de Montifaud Pineau des Charentes (France), \$28.99</p> <p>Rosy tea-colored in the glass, it's full of ripe and dried fruit aromas. In the mouth, it's all raisins, dried apricots, nuts and a whiff of candied ginger on the finish. Rich, dry and elegant.</p> <p>Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>
Finalist	93	<p>Lillet Rouge Aperitif France (France), \$19.99</p> <p>Herbs and berries mix with baking spices on the nose. On the palate it is gently sweet with deep herbal notes, orange zest and crushed flower petals. The dark green herbs carry through to a refreshing and dry finish. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>
Sake		
Award	Score	
Chairman's Trophy	97	<p>Bunraku Junmai Dai Ginjo Sake Japan (Japan), \$65.99, 720 ml</p> <p>Intensely pungent and fruity on the nose with tropical aromas like guava, kiwi and mango. Sweetly opulent in the mouth with rich layers of perfume that alternate between floral and tropical. It finished crisp and dry with excellent balance. Extraordinary, Ultimate Recommendation</p>

Finalist	96	<p>Koshi No Iso - Muroka Genshu Junmai Ginjo Sake Japan (Japan), \$45.00, 720 ml</p> <p>The soft ecru/oyster/gold tint is pale and pretty, showing pristine clarity. Aromas are potent, assertive and similar to tobacco leaf, forest floor, lichen, mushrooms, and cocoa bean. Taste profile is yeasty, beer-like, low in acidity, complex, and multilayered. Serve this junmai ginjo with red meat, oily fish. Serious, superb, complex. Extraordinary, Ultimate Recommendation</p>
Finalist	95	<p>OneTen - Purple Yamahai Junmai Ginjo Sake Japan (Japan), \$42.00, 720 ml</p> <p>It pours a pale yellow color in the glass. Bursting with fruity and earthy aromas, this sake is rich and full-bodied with a rice-forward, dry character. Notes of pear, honeydew and a yeasty tang on the finish. Extraordinary, Ultimate Recommendation</p>
Finalist	93	<p>Kiseki No Osake "Miracle Sake" Junmai Dai Ginjo Sake Japan (Japan), \$150.00, 720 ml</p> <p>A hint of a pale straw color. Bursting with a fruity perfume of ripe yellow apples, the sweet apply character carries through to the palate, backed by notes of soft yellow pear and a hint of vanilla. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>
Finalist	93	<p>Maboroshi No Taki (Mystic Falls) Junmai Ginjo Sake Japan (Japan), \$37.00, 720 ml</p> <p>Pouring clear with flecks of yellow in the glass, this sake is gently earthy on the nose. On the palate, it's juicy and fleshy, with notes of yellow pear and lychee, and a hint of the floral. Clean, dry finish. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>
Finalist	92	<p>Kinpou - Odayaka Junmai Ginjo Sake Japan (Japan), \$38.00, 720 ml</p> <p>Honeydew melon and lemon zest create a fruity yet clean set of aromas. Gentle and elegant on the palate with flavors of ripe golden apple, and tart pear skin. The savoriness blossoms on the finish alongside firm minerality. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>

Finalist	92	Kinryo - Noujun Junmai Sake Japan (Japan), \$30.00, 720 ml
<p>Clear with straw-hued glints in the glass, this fragrant sake is full of ripe yellow apple and lychee aromas. In the mouth, it's fleshy yet bright, showing yellow pear and cantaloupe character, with a distinct umami quality. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>		

Other

Cider – North America

Award	Score	
Chairman's Trophy	93	Pacific Coast Cider Hard Apple Cider Washington/California (United States), \$8.99, 22 oz.
<p>Invigorating nose of candied green apple, white peach, orange blossom, and lemon peel. On the palate there is a delicate bubble, with green apple, lemon, and blossom. The finish is dry, crisp, and refreshing. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>		

Finalist	92	Pacific Coast Cider Hard Apple Cider with Strawberry Washington/California (United States), \$8.99, 22 oz.
<p>Farm-fresh strawberries, rose petal, candied green apple, and citrus burst from the glass. There is a touch of sweetness on the palate with confectionary strawberry and citrus. The finish is fruity, and slightly sweet. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>		

Finalist	91	Chaddsford Winery Hard Cider Pennsylvania (United States), \$4.99, 375 ml
<p>Bright apple blossoms greet the nose. Zest and piquant on the tongue, this lightly sparkling cider is dry and lemony in the mouth with considerable minerality and a dry chalky finish. Incredibly refreshing and clean. Great Value. Excellent, Highly Recommended</p>		

Miscellaneous Wines

Miscellaneous Wines - World

Award	Score	
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**Westport Winery Duckleberry Grunt Grape Wine with
Natural Flavor Washington (United States), \$26.00**

Rich nose of mango, lychee, strawberry confit, candied raspberry, and sweet spice. Fruity and sweet palate with fresh citrus and roses, also red raspberry. Very fresh finish ensues.

Excellent, Highly Recommended