

# Colorado Governor's Cup



## Statewide Wine Competition 2021

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*produced by the Colorado Wine Industry Development Board*

Thank you to Gov. Jared Polis for his continued support of the statewide winemaking competition.

### OVERVIEW OF THE COMPETITION

The Colorado Wine Industry Development Board (CWIDB) is charged, among other things, to both “promote all wines produced or finished by a licensed Colorado winery” (35-29.5-104(2) C.R.S.) and “to promote the marketing of wines and wine grapes produced in Colorado” (35-29.5-103(1) C.R.S).

The purpose of this competition is to provide a judging available to licensed Colorado wineries with a panel of qualified national and regional judges assembled by Kyle Schlachter and Doug Caskey, CWIDB staff. As such, this competition will be open to all wines finished by any winery or vintners restaurant licensed in Colorado, regardless of the source of the fruit used to make that wine. However, pursuant to the exceptions included in the Colorado Liquor Code (44-3-103 (20) CRS), hard cider is not eligible for this competition.<sup>1</sup> “Winery” as used in this document includes producers licensed under 12-47-402 or 12-47-403, CRS as well as vintner’s restaurants licensed under 12-47-420, CRS. During preliminary rounds, the judges will evaluate the wines without any knowledge of the source of the fruit used to make the wine.

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<sup>1</sup> The exemption from the Wine Development fees afforded hard cider in CRS 44-3-503 (1)(c and d) and in 35-29.5-102 (4)(b) enacted by SB19-142, removes cider and perry from the purview of the CWIDB.

All entries into the 2021 Governor's Cup Colorado Wine Competition will be eligible to receive medals. In order to be considered for inclusion in the Governor's Cup Collection, made up of the highest scoring wines deemed by the judges to be the best representatives of the Colorado wine industry, entrants must make a minimum of 50 case lots of those wines and must agree to the inventory levels detailed later in this document.

Judging will take place at [Metropolitan State University of Denver's Hospitality Learning Center](#) on the Auraria Campus in Denver on August 13-15, 2021.

We recruit judges from all segments of the wine industry across the country and within Colorado, including writers/bloggers, retailers/wholesalers, winemakers and grape growers, as well as academics/wine educators.

Entries, consisting of 3 bottles of each wine, along with a zero invoice made out to "HLC @ Metro Inc.," plus the a printed version of the entry form and payment of all appropriate fees, must be submitted to the **CWIDB, c/o Colorado Department of Agriculture, 305 Interlocken Parkway, Broomfield, CO 80021 (303.869.9000) between Tuesday, July 6, 2021 and Friday, July 30, 2021.** Each box should be marked "Governor's Cup." The Colorado Department of Agriculture offices are open 8 AM to 5 PM weekdays. You may deliver your entries in person or by common carrier (FedEx or UPS).

Entry fees are as follows:

- The first entry is free
- The second through the fourth entries will be \$70 each
- If you submit a total of 5-11 wines, each entry after the first one will be \$60
- If a winery submits 12 or more entries, all entries after the first one will be \$50 each.

No entries will be accepted **after 4:45 PM on Friday, July 30, 2021.** **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Entries for grape wines, sake, meads and other wines can all be submitted together using one entry form. However, please be sure to clearly identify the meads, fruit wines and all "other-than-standard wines" (sake will fall into this category) on the entry form.

This year we will again hold "Colorado Uncorked," the public tasting of the Governor's Cup Collection and any Best of Class Wines, on Friday, November 5, 2021 at the [History Colorado Center](#) in downtown Denver. VIP tickets holders will be let in about 6:00 PM and have access to special food

pairings. The general admission ticket holders will be allowed in at 7:00 PM or so. Discounts will be available to History Colorado members and VIP customers from the Colorado wine industry.

All wineries that enter product into the competition will be eligible to purchase general admission tickets for winery staff to “Colorado Uncorked” at 50% off the regular price. This is limited to four tickets per entering winery. This is an opportunity to support your fellow winemakers.

If you did not see the completed video of the 2017 Governor’s Cup event, please [click on this YouTube link](#) or on the “Watch the Video” link on the landing page of [www.coloradowine.com](http://www.coloradowine.com).

At this time the judges who have replied to our invitations include:

- Master Sommeliers: Wayne Belding from Boulder and Doug Frost from Kansas City, who is also an MW;
- Masters of Wine: Joel Butler, a Denver native and former employee of Boulder Liquor Mart, who now owns a wine shop in Seattle; Ashley Hausman, the first person in CO to achieve the MW, and Doug Frost, mentioned above;
- Jay Bileti, judge at numerous national competitions and officer with the American Wine Society;
- Andrew Stover, one of Wine Enthusiast Magazine’s Top 40 Under 40 a few years ago and founder of [Vino50](#), a company that imports wines from emerging US wine regions into the Washington, DC area;
- Alder Yarrow, California wine writer and blogger in [vinography.com](http://vinography.com);
- Mike Dunne, recently the wine writer for the Sacramento Bee;
- Dave Buchannon, wine writer for the Grand Junction Sentinel;
- Roberta Backlund, wholesaler and former employee of Boulder Liquor Mart;
- Taylor Courey, Colorado Springs wine merchant at Coaltrain Wine & Liquor;
- Clara Klein, sommelier with Frasca Hospitality Group at Sunday Vinyl, Denver
- Jim Trezise, president of WineAmerica and frequent national judge;
- Kelly Hayes, wine writer for the Aspen Times;
- Jenne Baldwin-Eaton, director of the Viticulture & Enology program at Western Colorado Community College.

## HOW TO ENTER

[Read the rules and the disclaimers for entering.](#) Then, complete the attached entry form with appropriate information for each wine you are entering. Ship three bottles of each wine, completed entry form(s) and **the appropriate** entry fee for each wine after the first one so that everything will *arrive* no later than 4:45 PM on Friday, July 30, 2021. **Include a zero invoice for all entries to “HLC @ Metro Inc.”** Entries received without a zero invoice will be disqualified.

Make out checks for the entry fees to CWIDB and please note “For Governor’s Cup Competition” at the bottom.

**SHIP OR DELIVER TO:** CO Wine Industry Development Board  
c/o Colorado Department of Agriculture  
305 Interlocken Parkway  
Broomfield, CO 80021  
303.869.9000

**FOR ARRIVAL NO LATER THAN 4:45 PM FRIDAY, JULY 30, 2021.**

## QUESTIONS

Doug Caskey, CO Wine Industry Development Board

PH: 303.869.9177 (C: 720.304.3406) or [doug.caskey@state.co.us](mailto:doug.caskey@state.co.us)

Kyle Schlachter, CO Wine Industry Development Board

PH: 303.869.9178 (C: 720.839.6342) or [kyle.schlachter@state.co.us](mailto:kyle.schlachter@state.co.us)

## COMPETITION LOCATION

Metropolitan State University of Denver, Hospitality Learning Center  
1190 Auraria Parkway, Denver

## ENTRY FEE

There will be no entry fee for the first entry into the Competition. See table for subsequent entry fees.

| # of Entries | Entry Fee | Total Due                   |
|--------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| 1            | \$0       | \$0                         |
| 2            | \$70      | \$70                        |
| 3            | \$70      | \$140                       |
| 4            | \$70      | \$210                       |
| 5            | \$60      | \$240                       |
| 6            | \$60      | \$300                       |
| 7            | \$60      | \$360                       |
| 8            | \$60      | \$420                       |
| 9            | \$60      | \$480                       |
| 10           | \$60      | \$540                       |
| 11           | \$60      | \$600                       |
| 12           | \$50      | \$550                       |
| 12 or more   | \$50      | (Total # entries -1) x \$50 |

No entries will be accepted after July 30, 2021. Your entry fee covers only about one-third of the cost of this competition. The Colorado Wine Industry Development Board covers the remainder of the costs. Wineries must cover the cost of shipping or delivering their wine and must accept the risk for all damage during shipping and storage.

## ENTRIES

Entrants must deliver three (3) 750 ml bottles per entry, two (2) 1.5 l bottles, four (4) bottles of 500 ml, or six (6) 375 ml or 250 ml cans. We serve up to 8 judges one day and up to 20 judges the following day, opening a fresh bottle for the second day of all wines that pass through to the sweepstakes round. All entries must be zero invoiced to “HLC @ Metro, Inc.” Wineries may enter more than one wine in each class and as many wines as they wish overall.

All wine left over will be used for promotional or educational purposes by the Colorado Wine Industry Development Board. It is the responsibility of the entrant to pick up, claim or provide other transportation for the return of any disqualified entry.

## MEDALS

All wines entered into the competition, regardless of how much is made, will be considered for a medal. The judges will rate the wines on a 10 point scale according to the following standards:

- Double Gold: wines that receive a unanimous gold medal score from all judges on a panel in the initial round of judging or from a solid majority of all judges during the Sweepstakes Round.
- 10 pts, Gold +: Shows exceptional depth and drinkability beyond any other wine in the competition; a world-class wine.
- 9 pts, Gold -: Shows exceptional depth and drinkability beyond Silver Medal wines; amongst the best in Colorado.
- 8 pts, Silver +: Shows depth and drinkability well above accepted industry standards.
- 7 pts, Silver -: Shows depth and drinkability beyond accepted industry standards.
- 6 pts, Bronze +: No significant flaws or faults; drinkability above accepted industry standards.
- 5 pts, Bronze -: No significant flaws or faults; drinkability at or above accepted industry standards.
- 4 pts or less, No Medal: Presents with noticeable flaws or faults; does not exhibit proper varietal character, or appropriate stylistic character; un-drinkable.

Gold and Double Gold Medal winners, along with any other wines the judges deem to be outstanding in their category, will be considered for inclusion in the [Governor's Cup Collection](#), which is comprised of wines the judges feel best represent the Colorado wine industry. In order to be included in the Governor's Cup Collection, wines must be made in lots of at least 50 cases, have a minimum of 10 cases available for wholesale or retail sales on the date of Colorado Uncorked, and be available to be poured and represented at that event, tentatively scheduled for November 5, 2021.

## **COLORADO GOVERNOR'S CUP COLLECTION**

The judges will assemble the top-scoring wines from the Competition which best represent the Colorado wine industry into the "Governor's Cup Collection." The CWIDB will rely primarily on the Collection to showcase Colorado wines to the media, at public tastings and promotional events around the state throughout the coming year. In an attempt to assure that the case represents the diversity of all Colorado wines, the judges and organizers may adjust the contents of the Collection so that no more than 9 bottles of one style of wine make up the case. As always, we will not publicly disclose scores or ranking of wines, only the medals awarded and wines selected to be included in the Governor's Cup Collection.

If you would like your wine to serve as a standard-bearer of the Colorado wine industry and to receive first consideration when the CWIDB plans media familiarization trips, interviews, recommendations and call-outs, *you must enter the Governor's Cup Competition.*

When listing the contents of the Colorado Governor's Cup Collection, the CWIDB will call out and recognize those products made from at least 75% Colorado produce as identified by the appellation of grape wines (Colorado, Grand Valley AVA, West Elks AVA, or a Colorado county) or as identified on the entry form for non-grape wines. The CWIDB may request purchasing records or other documents as proof of origin.

## **AWARD PRESENTATION: "COLORADO UNCORKED"**

The CWIDB will invite Colorado Governor Jared Polis, Lieutenant Governor Dianne Primavera, and Agriculture Commissioner Kate Greenberg to present the Governor's Cup awards to all winning wineries at the public event, "Colorado Uncorked," on November 5th, 2021 at the History Colorado Center. Wineries will be invited to pour those wines included in the Governor's Cup Collection, provided

all wineries have a minimum of 10 cases available for sale either at wholesale or to consumers at the time of Colorado Uncorked. All wines will be paired at the event with small-bite menu items prepared by area chefs.

We are unable to guarantee that medals will be available in time for the November 5th public tasting; however, every attempt will be made to have plaques and awards for the Governor's Cup Collection prepared by that date. We will also invite selected media members to cover the event and taste the winning wines at a special media reception prior to November 5th.

## **WINNER OF THE GOVERNOR'S CUP**

The judges will also select a Governor's Cup Winner, which in their opinion best represents the Colorado wine industry, from all wines selected for the Governor's Cup Collection. That winery will be able to display the Governor's Cup trophy for the coming year.

At the Conclusion of the Competition and after the Governor's Cup Collection wines are announced, the CWIDB may purchase up to five (5) cases—most likely 2-3 cases—of each selected wine from the entrants at 50% off the retail price. These wines will represent the Colorado wine industry at CWIDB's public tastings and events throughout the coming year.

**By entering the Competition, you agree to provide all of the following:**

- **up to five (5) cases of any of your wine selected for inclusion in the Governor's Cup Collection and,**
- **at least 10 cases available for retail and wholesale sales on November 5, 2021. (See [Rule #4 under Eligibility](#), below) and,**
- **wine to pour at "Colorado Uncorked" at no cost as well as to make every possible effort to provide a representative to pour on November 5th.**

**Invoicing and payment procedures for wine purchases by the CWIDB will be determined after the Competition. Failure to provide product as stated above, to make an effort to provide representation for "Colorado Uncorked" event, and to comply with these agreements, all rules and stipulations in this document may result in disqualification of the wine and all entries from your winery as well as forfeiture of any medals, trophies or other forms of recognition.**



## JUDGING PROCESS

1. All entries will be grouped into flights of common varieties and/or styles based on information provided on the entry form, then judged by 3 to 5-member panels and rated on a 10-point scale based on the quality perceived by the judges. Judges will then use a consensus review process to award bronze, silver, gold, or no medals. When an entire panel of judges awards a gold medal, that wine will be eligible for double gold.
2. The judges will evaluate grape wines based on the standards of color, clarity, aroma, taste, balance and finish. They will evaluate non-grape, fruit or agricultural and other than standard wines, including sake, on standards appropriate for that category or style of wine. The highest scoring entries will be moved forward to the sweepstakes round for consideration for inclusion in the Governor's Cup Collection.
3. Entrants should identify the category or class they think best suits each entry (Use the *Notes* column if the category is not clear under *Varietal Designation*). However, the organizers and judges reserve the right to reclassify any entry into a different category which they feel is more appropriate and beneficial to the wine's evaluation. Each winemaker is encouraged to include a brief justification for including a wine in a particular category. All wines falling into what the International Riesling Foundation would call sweet (see the IRF's Taste Profile at <http://www.drinkriesling.com/tastescale/thescale/>) will be classified in the Fortified and Dessert wine category.
4. Judges will know the varietal contents of each entry as well as the style based on information provided on the entry form. However, judges will not be aware of the appellation, or source of the produce used to make that wine, during the first round of judging. Upon judges' request, the Competition organizers will inform the judges of alcohol, sugar content and pH/TA levels if provided on the entry form.
5. All entries will be tasted at room temperature with the exception of any sparkling entries, which will be chilled for safety. The competition organizers do not have the capacity to chill entries to a specific temperature or to

accommodate any serving directions or instructions, so all entries will be tasted as is.

6. The top-scoring entries from all panels of judges will advance to a final sweepstakes round with all judges determining the wines eligible for inclusion in the Governor's Cup Collection. The competition directors and the judges will determine how many wines from each panel will move forward to the Sweepstakes Round.
7. Unlike the preliminary round, each judge samples all of the Sweepstakes Round wines. Each wine's score starts fresh on the second day of judging. Judges will not consider the first day's scores when selecting the wines for the Governor's Cup Collection. Additionally, during the Sweepstakes Round, organizers may provide the judges with information identifying the appellation or source of fruit or other produce. Each wine in the Sweepstakes Round receives a final score calculated from the all judges' evaluations. The wines with the highest scores will be considered for the "Governor's Cup Collection" as described above. The judges will identify the Governor's Cup Winner as the wine they feel best represents the quality and potential of all wines made in Colorado entered into the competition.
8. All decisions of the judges are final.
9. When the judges deem any entry to be flawed, no more than one additional bottle will be opened. The judges reserve the right to disqualify a wine they deem to be undrinkable.

# COLORADO GOVERNOR'S CUP WINEMAKING COMPETITION

## RULES AND DISCLAIMERS

### ELIGIBILITY

1. This competition is open to all wineries and vintner's restaurants making wine within the state of Colorado, provided they are duly licensed by both the Colorado Department of Revenue Liquor Enforcement Division (LED) and the Tax and Trade Bureau of the US Treasury Department (TTB). All wine manufactured by a licensed Colorado winery (CRS 44-3-402 or 44-3-403) or a vintner's restaurant (CRS 44-3-422) is eligible for this competition, with the exception of hard cider as defined in 44-3-102 (20) CRS, for [the reasons noted above](#). Proof of licensure may be requested by the organizers.
2. **All wines finished by a Colorado licensed winery or vintners restaurant are eligible to receive medals, regardless of production. Those wines with a production of 50 cs. or more, with 10 cases available for sale on Nov. 5th will be eligible for inclusion in the Governor's Cup Collection.** Wines made from at least 75% Colorado produce and selected for inclusion in *The Colorado Governor's Cup Collection* will receive additional recognition in the listing.
3. All wines included in the Governor's Cup Collection must retain at least 10 cases of the wine available for retail or wholesale sales at the time of the public event on November 5, 2021. The Governor's Cup Collection wines will be promoted to the public. This case minimum is to ensure that consumers will have a chance to purchase these wines.
4. No barrel samples, unlabeled bottles, or bottles labeled with a temporary, photo-copied, hand-written, altered or unapproved label will be accepted.
5. All wines submitted must have labels that comply with all federal and Colorado labeling laws and regulations, *including an appellation of origin for all grape wines*, AND BE [REGISTERED WITH THE COLORADO LIQUOR ENFORCEMENT DIVISION](#). (Click on the link for more information on label registration.)
6. Entrants agree not to hold the competition, its organizers, sponsors, venue hosts, volunteers and judges responsible or liable as noted under [Disclaimer #2 below](#).

7. Failure to comply with these rules will make the wine and/or the winery subject to disqualification from the competition, any awards, any promotions and the public tasting event.

## **DISCLAIMER AND AGREEMENTS**

**By submitting wine to this competition, the entrant agrees to all of the following:**

1. to bear all shipping costs and liability for making sure the samples arrive at the Colorado Wine Industry Development Board's CO Department of Agriculture offices, 305 Interlocken Pkwy, Broomfield 80021, **BEFORE FRIDAY, JULY 30, 2021 AT 4:45 PM; (THE CWIDB WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY LATE ENTRIES)**
2. to hold the Colorado Wine Industry Development Board, volunteers, judges, venues, and any and all sponsors of the competition and the awards presentation and the judging harmless for:
  - a. the safety of the wines from theft or damage by fire, temperature, vandalism, or other causes; (Every reasonable effort will be made to store the wines safely and responsibly.)
  - b. any unintentional errors or omissions in the competition results and all subsequent publications or promotions of the results;
  - c. any negative media coverage, social media comments, and any other public response to the competition whether generated during the judging, public reception, or any subsequent promotion;
  - d. and all other aspects of this competition and the public reception;
3. to abide by all the procedures and rules set out in this document, understanding that any non-compliance with the procedures and rules could result in disqualification with no refund of entry fees or return of wine;
4. to guarantee that all entries have been registered with the Liquor Enforcement Division of the Colorado Department of Revenue, and meet all labeling requirements for both the State of Colorado and the TTB;

5. to accept the decision of the judges as final;
6. to make samples of all Governor's Cup Collection wines available at no charge to be poured at the public celebration and tasting, Colorado Uncorked, at History Colorado Center on November 5, 2021 and to make every effort to be available in person at the November 5th event or provide a winery representative;
7. to make available up to five (5) cases of each designated wine for the "Governor's Cup Collection," if selected, which will be reimbursed at 50% of the standard retail price by the CWIDB for promotional use throughout the coming year (The Competition organizers may disqualify any wines selected for the Governor's Cup Collection if that wine is not available in sufficient quantity after the judging AND of which a minimum of ten (10) cases are not available for retail or wholesale sales on November 5, 2021.);
8. to affirm that all information provided on the entry form is correct and valid for all wines entered, that all appellations and other information on the labels of wines entered is correct and that the labels of all entries comply with state and federal laws and regulations;
9. and, to provide licensing documentation, proof of origin, label approval, and any other information if requested by the CWIDB or competition organizers.

**Entry Form for 2021 Governor's Cup Colorado Wine Competition**

- Competition sponsored by the Colorado Wine Industry Development Board: judging held August 13-15, 2021
- Public reception and awards presentation (Colorado Uncorked): Nov. 5, 2021 at the History Colorado Center, Denver
- **3 x 750ml bottles of each entry must be received BEFORE 4:45 PM Friday, July 30, 2021 at the CWIDB offices at CO Dept. of Agriculture, 305 Interlocken Pkwy, Broomfield, CO 80021 (303.869.9000)**

**Please note: by submitting entries to the Governor's Cup Competition you agree to follow all the rules and disclaimers in the document above.**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Winery:                    |  |
| contact name and position: | <b>Entry fees based on total number of entries</b> |
| mailing address:           | First Entry: \$0                                   |
| City, State ZIP:           | Up to 4 entries: \$70 each, after the first one    |
| phone:                     | 5-11 entries: \$60 each, after the first one       |
| e-mail:                    | 12 or more entries: \$50 each, after the first one |

| Varietal Designation or blend | Vintage | ABV % | Residual Sugar % | Acidity if known | pH if known | Appellation | % produce from Colorado | Vyd. designation or Proprietary Name if applicable | Notes and other information | Entry Fee for 1-4 wines | Entry Fee for 1-11 wines | Entry Fee for 12 or more |
|-------------------------------|---------|-------|------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1                             |         |       |                  |                  |             |             |                         |  |                             | n/c                     | n/c                      | n/c                      |
| 2                             |         |       |                  |                  |             |             |                         |  |                             | \$70                    | \$60                     | \$50                     |
| 3                             |         |       |                  |                  |             |             |                         |  |                             | \$70                    | \$60                     | \$50                     |
| 4                             |         |       |                  |                  |             |             |                         |  |                             | \$70                    | \$60                     | \$50                     |
| 5                             |         |       |                  |                  |             |             |                         |  |                             |                         | \$60                     | \$50                     |
| 6                             |         |       |                  |                  |             |             |                         |  |                             |                         | \$60                     | \$50                     |
| 7                             |         |       |                  |                  |             |             |                         |  |                             |                         | \$60                     | \$50                     |
| 8                             |         |       |                  |                  |             |             |                         |  |                             |                         | \$60                     | \$50                     |
| 9                             |         |       |                  |                  |             |             |                         |  |                             |                         | \$60                     | \$50                     |
| 10                            |         |       |                  |                  |             |             |                         |  |                             |                         | \$60                     | \$50                     |
| 11                            |         |       |                  |                  |             |             |                         |  |                             |                         | \$60                     | \$50                     |
| 12                            |         |       |                  |                  |             |             |                         |  |                             |                         |                          | \$50                     |
| 13                            |         |       |                  |                  |             |             |                         |  |                             |                         |                          | \$50                     |
| 14                            |         |       |                  |                  |             |             |                         |  |                             |                         |                          | \$50                     |
| 15                            |         |       |                  |                  |             |             |                         |  |                             |                         |                          | \$50                     |

**No late entries will be accepted.** Total # of Entries  TOTAL DUE: (# entries -1) x variable entry fee

**If submitting more than 1 box of entries, please be sure a copy of this entry form is included in each box for the appropriate contents. Print extra copies of this form if necessary. Make checks payable to CWIDB.**