



COLORADO

Wine Industry Development Board

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COLORADO'S WINE INDUSTRY BOOMS WITH NEW TASTING ROOMS, A ROBUST GROWING SEASON AND THE RETURN OF ITS NATIONAL JUDGING COMPETITION

State to Welcome World-Renowned Experts for Governor's Cup Competition Judging this August

(Broomfield, Colo) – July 26, 2022 – The [Colorado Wine Industry Development Board](#) (CWIDB), representing the state's 170 wineries, meaderies, and wine tasting rooms, is entering the 2022 growing season with optimism. With new producers, 90+ point ratings from Wine Enthusiast, a strong grape crop and national recognition as a top wine destination, there is a lot to celebrate. The CWIDB is also bringing back the in-person judging of its 2022 Governor's Cup Competition, which will bring world-renowned wine experts to Denver this August.

Doug Caskey, Director of the Colorado Wine Industry Development Board, said, "After a quiet couple of years, one thing that has not slowed down is the growing quality of Colorado wines and our recognition as one of the top unique wine regions in the country."

In the past year, Colorado has climbed the ranks as a top wine destination in the country. [Wine Enthusiast](#) named The Infinite Monkey Theorem one of the best urban wineries in the U.S.; [HuffPost](#) listed the Grand Valley as a top U.S. wine destination as an alternative to Napa and Sonoma; [Hemispheres Magazine](#) dubbed Palisade as a wine region to watch; and [Forbes](#) noted the economic growth that the wine industry has brought to Colorado.

In time for the summer visiting season, new tasting rooms have opened on the Western Slope and across the state. [Carboy Winery](#) opened a brand-new Palisade tasting room this spring with a patio overlooking their vineyard and Mt. Garfield. Ben Parsons, founder of Infinite Monkey Theorem, has introduced [The Ordinary Fellow](#), a brand-new winery and tasting room on the site of the historic United Fruit Growers COOP peach packing shed. And the first winery to receive a license in Colorado after prohibition in 1933, A. [Carbone & Co.](#) is being revived by Anthony Carbone's great grandson - who is also opening San Luis Valley Distillery.

The proof is also in the numbers. Wine Enthusiast recently reviewed 21 Colorado wines which received an average score of 88.2. Seven wines received 90 points or higher:

- [2019 Reserve Merlot](#), BookCliff Vineyards (91 points)
- [2019 Cabernet Sauvignon](#), Winery at Holy Cross Abbey (91 points)
- [2020 Malbec](#), Infinite Monkey Theorem (90 points)

- [2018 Cabernet Franc](#), Winery at Holy Cross Abbey (90 points)
- [2019 Malbec](#), Carboy Winery (90 points)
- [2019 Merlot](#), Winery at Holy Cross Abbey (90 points)
- [2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon](#), Winery at Holy Cross Abbey (90 points)

In addition, many Colorado winemakers are reporting signs of a successful growing season. “We are looking at about a 90% crop in cold-hardy varieties and about a 50% crop in traditional *Vitis vinifera* varieties. Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Sauvignon Blanc are doing well,” said Bruce Talbott of Talbott Farms. “After a slow start, growth seems to be good. Harvest timing appears to be fairly average at the moment.”

Kevin Webber of Carboy Winery, last year’s Governor’s Cup Competition winner, stated that its Grand Valley vineyard, [Kay Vineyard](#), is the “best it has ever looked.” Colorado State University Viticulturist Dr. Horst Caspari has noted that the warm summer is pushing harvest up for a late July or early August start. He also said there is no current sign of diseases that occasionally can be found in Colorado’s vineyards, such as powdery mildew.

Finally, this August, CWIDB will host an in-person judging panel for the 2022 Colorado Governor’s Cup Competition, the only statewide wine making competition exclusively for Colorado wines. Notable sommeliers, writers, and wine experts from around the country will make up the panel that will evaluate the entries and determine the top wines in the state for 2022.

Notable returning judges include Doug Frost, Master of Wine and Master Sommelier; Ashley Hausman, Master of Wine; and Clara Klein, Sommelier at Sunday Vinyl. New notable judges sitting on this year’s panel include Zach Lewison, Sommelier at Sonnenalp in Vail; and Joe Roberts, wine writer at 1WineDude.

The Colorado Wine Industry Development Board will announce the winners of this year’s Governor’s Cup Wine Competition in September. The winning wines will be put into the 2022 Governor’s Cup Collection, a selection of wines designed to highlight not one but a dozen of the state’s top wines, which will be tasted for the public at [Colorado UnCORKed](#), November 4, 2022 at the History Colorado Center in downtown Denver.

About the Colorado Wine Industry Development Board

The Colorado Wine Industry Development Board (CWIDB), part of the Colorado Department of Agriculture, is dedicated to promoting and furthering the development of Colorado’s grape growers and vintners. The CWIDB supports the efforts of more than 170 wineries throughout the state, producing an increasing array of premium-quality wines. For additional information, visit www.coloradowine.com.