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INDUSTRY NEWS RELEASES WINE BUSINESS

## Sunset International Wine Competition Announces Winners

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*2022 Sunset International Wine Competition Awards Best of the Best and Best Red Wine to Wapato Point Cellars' 2018 Cabernet Franc*

**Santa Rosa, Calif., — June 14, 2022—**

Boasting a record number of entries, the 2022 Sunset International Wine Competition awarded Best of the Best and Best Red Wine to a Cabernet Franc from Wapato Point Cellars (Manson, Wash.). Judges raved: "Beautiful oak"; "Blackberry"; "Righteous herbal"; "Focused." This is the first time a Washington State wine has taken top prize at this prestigious competition.

"It was unexpected but well deserved," says Debra Del Fiorentino, founder and president of Wine Competitions Management & Productions. "We had some really great wines in the final sweepstakes rounds, and Wapato Point Cellars swoops in and takes it all. Results like this are why competitions are so valuable."



To win Best of Show Red Wine, the Wapato Point Cab Franc had to best a field of 16 other reds in the Sweepstakes Round, including such heavy hitters as a Mi Sueño Winery Cabernet Sauvignon, Ehret Family Winery Merlot, Sean Minor Wines Pinot Noir and Concannon Vineyard Petit Verdot, among others.

Nine outstanding wines competed for Best of Show White Wine honors, including a Husch Vineyards Gewürztraminer, a Harney Lane Albariño and a Sauvignon Blanc from Francis Ford Coppola's Diamond Collection. Ultimately, though, the prize went to Dry Creek Cellars 2021 Dry Chenin Blanc, which judges described as "Lemony"; "Golden delicious apples"; "Orange blossoms."

In the final sweepstakes round for Best Of Show, the Wapato Point marched to victory over the Best White, Best Sparkling (2018 Domaine Carneros Brut), Best Rosé (Del Rio 2021 Rosé of Grenache) and Best Dessert (2019 Baldacci Family Vineyards Late Harvest Gewürztraminer) contenders. See below for more details.

Revived in 2017 after a decade-long hiatus, the Sunset International Wine Competition is designed to attract all wineries interested in reaching the Western wine drinker and is juried by the best judges in the industry, who understand and appreciate the Western palate and lifestyle. Judges include winemakers, sommeliers, retail buyers, wine educators, and journalists.

"Wine is central to the Sunset lifestyle, a passion of our audience, and a core part of the stories we tell," says Hugh Garvey, editor-in-chief at Sunset Publishing. "Every year, we look forward to sharing the results of the annual wine competition with our readers. This year saw a record number of entries, which is a testament to the talents and output of an industry we look to for inspiration and deliciousness. We're grateful for the efforts of all who entered and raise a glass to the winners."

Winning producers will be featured in the October release of a Wine Special nonprint, digital edition with supporting microsite. Promotions for the Wine Award Special Issue will be placed in sunset.com, Sunset eNewsletters and Sunset social sites. The edition will be promoted and available for 12 months or until the 2022 Wine Competition Awards winners are announced.

The complete list of Gold and above medal winners can be found here: [Sunset International 2022 Result by Brand.](#)



### SWEEPSTAKES WINES

**Best of the Best and Best of Show Red:** Wapato Point Cellars 2018 Cabernet Franc (99 pts.)

Judges: "Beautiful oak"; "Blackberry"; "Righteous herbal"; "Focused."

**Best of Show White:** Dry Creek Vineyards 2021 Dry Chenin Blanc (96)

Judges: "Lemony"; "Golden delicious apples"; "Orange blossoms."

**Best of Show Sparkling:** Domaine Carneros 2018 Estate Brut Cuvee (99)

Judges: "Bright, lively"; "Very well-balanced"; "Tropical fruit."

**Best of Show Rosé:** Del Rio Vineyards 2021 Grenache Rosé (97)

Judges: "Deep salmon color"; "Bing cherry"; "Juicy and balanced."

**Best of Show Dessert Wine:** Baldacci Family Vineyards 2019 Late Harvest Gewürztraminer (96)

Judges: "Citric"; "Honey"; "Rich"; "Demands attention"; "Flowers that blossom in the grass."