



## THE JEFFERSON CUP INVITATIONAL WINE COMPETITION

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**Kansas City, Missouri** – The Jefferson Cup Invitational has celebrated its sixteenth year as the only competition that honors the best of the best among wineries from all of America’s wine regions. Each year we select great wines from across America; the 2015 competition included wines from twenty-four states. At the end of the second day of this year’s tasting, November 20, 2015 wines from NINE different states had captured top honors. Just as the event’s namesake would have it, democracy reigned at this year’s Jefferson Cup Wine Competition.

The two-day competition culminated with the awarding of twenty-seven Jefferson Cup Awards. Jefferson Cups were awarded to wines made from both vinifera vines (a European species responsible for more famous wines such as Chardonnay and Cabernet) and non-vinifera vines, which flourish in the more extreme climates in the U.S.

These twenty-seven prestigious Jefferson Cups, similar to Sweepstakes Awards at other competitions, were awarded to one sparkling wine, seven white wines, two rosés, eleven red wines and six dessert wines. “While many competitions insist upon selecting a pre-ordained number of sweepstakes winners, our judges are allowed to find the top wines, whether there are only one, two or three, or even NO winners in some categories, as has happened in previous years,” says Jefferson Cup Invitational founder Doug Frost. “This year, for the first time in several years, we had both rosé and sparkling winners, and there were once again great examples of wine, both from vinifera and non-vinifera grapes.” Together with fifty-five other wines nominated for (but not awarded) the Jefferson Cup, these twenty-seven wines represent some of the most compelling wines made in America.

Although many expect California to dominate the awards, Jefferson Cups were won by eight other states: Arizona, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Texas and Washington State. California never dominated, with two Cups compared to Missouri’s nine Cups, New York’s six Cups and Michigan’s three Cups. Having never won before, New York’s Wagner Winery won two Cups; Arizona’s Dos Cabezas Wine Works won two Jefferson Cups as well. Frequent winners shone too: Missouri’s Stone Hill Winery won three Jefferson Cups and Ladoga Ridge Winery won two Cups. Michigan’s St. Julian Winery and Washington’s Brian Carter Cellars won two Cups as well.

Many people have begun to call the Jefferson Cup Invitational, the “Olympics” of wine competitions. This competition is not open to every winery willing to submit an entrance fee. Rather we select the best of the best, culled from tastings and competitions in America throughout 2015. The Jefferson Cup Invitational was founded in 1999 in honor of Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson fathered our constitution, helped champion the international concept of human rights and was a seminal figure in America’s cultural, culinary (including wine) and agricultural history.

## *About the Jefferson Cup Invitational*

The Sixteenth Annual Jefferson Cup Invitational took place on November 19 and 20, 2015 in Kansas City, Missouri. The Jefferson Cup is a different sort of wine competition, in that it is an invitational in which over seven hundred wines are pre-selected which exemplify top viticulture and winemaking throughout America.

This year, out of over seven hundred forty chosen wines, the judges selected just over two-hundred-eighty-two wines to receive the “Medals of American Merit”, which respects wines exemplary of their regions and varieties, and is comparable to a Silver Medal at most competitions. Next the judges chose two hundred-seventeen wines (there was no pre-ordained number or percentage) that they believed were truly great wines, roughly equivalent to Gold Medals in other competitions. Those will receive medallions announcing them as “Medals of American Excellence”.

This year, eighty-two wines were selected as Jefferson Cup nominees; these wines were nominated by the six judging committees to be considered for Jefferson Cups. Out of those eighty-two honored wines, the judges collectively picked twenty-seven wines to be awarded the Jefferson Cup. By selecting both vinifera and non-vinifera wines for the Jefferson Cup each year, the goal is to respect the diversity of American viticulture and Jefferson's own acceptance of native varieties and hybrids. Jefferson fathered our constitution, helped champion the international concept of human rights and was a seminal figure in America's cultural, culinary (including wine) and agricultural history.

“In most other competitions there is ‘open’ seating,” says Frost, ”and California represents 90% of the entries. As a result it usually captures 90% of the honors,” he said. “What we are doing is following Mr. Jefferson's example and allowing every quality wine-producing region in America a place at our table. Each year we select great wines from across America; the 2015 competition included wines from twenty-four states.”

Following the Jefferson Cup competition, the remaining wines are donated for an annual event that benefits children and adults in need. This year the Jefferson Cup raised more than \$90,000 for Angel Flight Central. We hope that these events reflect well upon the great heritage of Thomas Jefferson.

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## The 2015 JEFFERSON CUP winners are:

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### *For Sparkling Wine:*

St. Julian Winery Sweet Nancie (Sparkling Traminette) nv Lake Michigan Shore

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### *For White Non-Vinifera Wine:*

Holy-Field Vineyard & Winery Valvin Muscat 2014 Kansas

Montelle Winery Dry Vignoles 2014 Augusta

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### *For White Vinifera Wine:*

Dr. Konstantin Frank Grüner Veltliner 2014 Great Lakes

Hawthorne Vineyards Auxerrois Barrel Reserve 2014 Old Mission Peninsula

Sheldrake Point Winery Dry Riesling 2014 Finger Lakes

Wagner Vineyards Riesling Select 2013 Finger Lakes

Wagner Vineyards Riesling Caywood East Vineyard 2014 Finger Lakes

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### *For Rosé Wine:*

Adam Puchta Winery Dry Rosé nv Missouri

pureCru Napa Valley Rosato di Sangio 2015 Lodi

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### *For Red Vinifera Wine:*

Brian Carter Cellars Byzance 2011 Columbia Valley

Cakebread Cellars Dancing Bear Ranch 2012 Howell Mountain

Dos Cabezas WineWorks La Montaña Cimarron Vineyard 2012 Cochise County

Dos Cabezas WineWorks Águileón Cimarron Vineyard 2012 Cochise County

Eden Hill Vineyard Aglianico Winemaker's Reserve Oswald Vineyard 2014 Texas High Plains

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### *For Red Non-Vinifera Wine:*

Alba Vineyard Chambourcin Estate 2012 Warren Hills

Ladoga Ridge Winery Concord nv

Les Bourgeois Vineyards Jeunette Rouge nv

Stone Hill Winery Chambourcin 2013 Missouri

Stone Hill Winery Norton Cross J Vineyard 2013 Hermann

Stone Hill Winery Norton Estate Bottled 2013 Hermann

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### *For Dessert Wine:*

Adam Puchta Winery Signature Port nv Missouri

Brian Carter Cellars Opulento 2013 Yakima Valley

Glenora Wine Cellars Riesling Ice 2014 Finger Lakes

Ladoga Ridge Winery Blackberry nv

Lamoreaux Landing Wine Cellars Riesling Ice 2014 Finger Lakes

St. Julian Winery Solera Cream Sherry nv Michigan