

# Tasting results: Northwest Rosé

Rosé is clearly the shiny new thing in the wine industry

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In April, Wine Press Northwest staged what is believed to be the largest-ever judging of rosé made in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Fortunately, many of these rosés should also be relatively easy to find as 19 entries surpassed a production of 1,000 cases.

The panel included Kate Michaud, winemaker at Double Canyon in West Richland, Wash.; April Reddout, wine program director at the Walter Clore Wine and Culinary Center in the Yakima Valley; Gregg McConnell, editor/publisher of Wine Press Northwest; Andy Perdue, wine columnist for The Seattle Times; Eric Degerman, president/CEO of Great Northwest Wine in Richland, Wash.; Ken Robertson, Wine Press Northwest columnist; Mike Rader, Great Northwest Wine tasting panelist; and Paul Sinclair, Great Northwest Wine tasting panelist. The judging took place at the Clover Island Inn in downtown Kennewick.

Here are the results:

## OUTSTANDING!

### **Brian Carter Cellars 2016 Abracadabra Rosé, Columbia Valley • \$25** Wine Press

Northwest's 2015 Washington Winery of the Year is a master blender, and Brian Carter shows that with this rosé that topped the judging. It's a blend of five varieties, primarily Sangiovese and Grenache, and his process involves some production using the saignée method. This checks all the boxes with aromas of strawberry freezer jam, pink raspberry and plum juice with cherry skin tannins and a pinch of cinnamon. It's done virtually bone-dry with 0.4% residual sugar, making for an incredibly mouthwatering finish. (13.7% alc., 555 cases)

#### • Rosé by the numbers

Here are some interesting statistics about this rosé judging:

Number of entries: 122

Wines rated "Outstanding!" — 30 (25%)

Wines rated "Outstanding!" that earned the equivalent of a unanimous double gold — 8

Wines rated "Excellent" — 52 (43%)

Wines rated "Recommended" — 23 (13%)

Average price — \$18

Total cases represented — 107,645

Average alcohol — 13.21%

Average residual sugar — 0.36%

Average residual sugar for wines rated "Outstanding!" — 0.27%

Average price for wines rated "Outstanding!" — \$19

American Viticultural Areas represented — 21