

2026 Monterey International Wine Competition Director's Awards

Award	Brand	Vintage	Wine Name	Designation	Appellation	Price	Award	score
Wine of the Year, Domestic	ZD Wines	2022	Cabernet Sauvignon	Reserve	Napa Valley	\$230.00	Platinum	98 points
Wine of the Year, Import	Whitehaven	2025	Sauvignon Blanc		Marlborough	\$20.00	Platinum	95 points
Winery of the Year	ZD Wines				Napa Valley			
Wine Company of the Year	GALLO				Modesto			
Best of Monterey County	Bernardus	2023	Chardonnay	Rosella's Vineyard	Santa Lucia Highlands	\$55.00	Platinum	96 points
Best of Show Sparkling Wine	Republican Red Winery	NV	Sparkling Wine	Brut Cuvée; America 250	Central Coast	\$47.00	Platinum	94 points
Best of Show White Wine (Tie)	Bernardus	2023	Chardonnay	Rosella's Vineyard	Santa Lucia Highlands	\$55.00	Platinum	96 points
Best of Show White Wine (Tie)	ZD Wines	2024	Chardonnay	Reserve	Carneros	\$85.00	Platinum	96 points
Best of Show Rosé Wine	McGrail Vineyards	2025	Kylie Ryan Rosé Wine		Livermore Valley	\$28.00	Gold	91 points
Best of Show Red Wine	ZD Wines	2022	Cabernet Sauvignon	Reserve	Napa Valley	\$230.00	Platinum	98 points
Best of Show Dessert Wine	Macchia	2024	Dangerous Port	Linsteadt Vineyard	Amador County	\$30.00	Gold	93 points
Best Albariño	LaZarre	2025	Albariño		Edna Valley	\$28.00	Gold	91 points
Best Barbera (tie)	La Chertosa Old World Wines	2022	Reserve Superior Barbera	The Winemaker Remembrance	Sonoma Valley	\$50.00	Platinum	94 points
Best Barbera (tie)	Macchia	2024	Righteous Barbera		Amador County	\$27.00	Platinum	94 points
Best Blended Red Other	Barefoot Cellars	NV	Rodeo Red Blend		California	\$6.99	Gold	93 points
Best Blended Red Rhone Varieties	Silvestri	2021	Grenache (90%) Syrah (10%)	Estate	Carmel Valley	\$25.00	Gold	92 points
Best Blended White Rhone Varieties	Carol Shelton Wines	2024	Coquille Blanc		Sonoma County	\$27.99	Platinum	95 points
Best Bordeaux Style Blend	Ironstone Vineyards	2023	Reserve Meritage	Estate Grown	Sierra Foothills	\$45.00	Platinum	94 points
Best Boxed Wine (tie)	Barefoot wine-to-go	NV	Sauvignon Blanc		California	\$4.99	Platinum	94 points
Best Boxed Wine (tie)	Barefoot wine-to-go	NV	White Moscato		California	\$4.99	Platinum	94 points
Best Cabernet Sauvignon	ZD Wines	2022	Cabernet Sauvignon	Reserve	Napa Valley	\$230.00	Platinum	98 points
Best Chardonnay (tie)	Bernardus	2023	Chardonnay	Rosella's Vineyard	Santa Lucia Highlands	\$55.00	Platinum	96 points
Best Chardonnay (tie)	ZD Wines	2024	Chardonnay	Reserve	Carneros	\$85.00	Platinum	96 points
Best Fruit/Grape Wine Blend (tie)	Barefoot Fruitscato	NV	Pineapple		No Appellation	\$6.99	Platinum	94 points
Best Fruit/Grape Wine Blend (tie)	Barefoot Fruitscato	NV	Pear		No Appellation	\$6.99	Platinum	94 points
Best Gruner Veltliner	Reustle Prayer Rock Vineyards	2024	Grüner Veltliner	Estate Selection; Hefeabzug	Umpqua Valley	\$37.00	Platinum	94 points
Best Hybrid	Cellar 426	NV	Lost Lake		American	\$18.00	Platinum	94 points
Best Low Calorie Wine	Menage a Trois	2023	Light Pinot Grigio		California	\$9.99	Gold	90 points
Best Malbec	Three Boys Rock Reserve	2021	Malbec		Mendoza	\$19.99	Platinum	94 points
Best Merlot	Ironstone Vineyards	2022	Merlot		Lodi	\$14.00	Platinum	94 points
Best Muscat	Sutter Home	NV	Moscato		California	\$6.00	Gold	90 points
Best Non Alcoholic Wine Alternative	ARIEL Vineyards	2024	Cabernet Sauvignon		No Appellation	\$11.00	Gold	90 points
Best Non-Vintage Brut	Republican Red Winery	NV	Sparkling Wine	Brut Cuvée; America 250	Central Coast	\$47.00	Platinum	94 points
Best Petite Sirah	Macchia	2024	Dubious Petite Sirah		California	\$27.00	Platinum	94 points
Best Pinot Grigio	Menage a Trois	2024	Limelight Pinot Grigio		California	\$11.99	Platinum	94 points
Best Pinot Noir	J. Lohr	2024	Fog's Reach Pinot Noir	Certified California Sustainable	Arroyo Seco	\$35.00	Platinum	95 points
Best Prosecco	Dracula's Daughter	2023	Prosecco Rosé		Prosecco Rose DOC	\$22.95	Gold	90 points
Best Riesling, Dry	Reustle Prayer Rock Vineyards	2024	Riesling	Estate Selection	Umpqua Valley	\$29.00	Gold	90 points
Best Riesling, Sweet	Integrity Wines	2023	Riesling		Santa Lucia Highlands	\$32.00	Gold	90 points
Best Rosé, Dry	McGrail Vineyards	2025	Kylie Ryan Rosé Wine		Livermore Valley	\$28.00	Gold	91 points
Best Sangiovese	La Chertosa Old World Wines	2023	Reserve Sangiovese	Don Silvio	Sonoma Valley	\$38.00	Platinum	94 points
Best Sauvignon Blanc	Whitehaven	2025	Sauvignon Blanc		Marlborough	\$20.00	Platinum	95 points
Best Syrah (tie)	J. Lohr	2023	South Ridge Syrah	Certified California Sustainable	Paso Robles	\$15.00	Platinum	94 points
Best Syrah (tie)	Silvestri	2023	Syrah	Estate	Carmel Valley	\$40.00	Platinum	94 points
Best Tempranillo	Reustle Prayer Rock Vineyards	2024	Tempranillo	Estate Selection	Umpqua Valley	\$40.00	Platinum	94 points
Best Viognier	Reustle Prayer Rock Vineyards	2024	Viognier	Estate Selection	Umpqua Valley	\$37.00	Gold	93 points
Best Wine Based Cocktail	Somerbella	NV	Mediterranean Spritz	Basil & Bitters	No Appellation	\$8.99	Gold	93 points
Best Zinfandel	Carol Shelton Wines	2023	Collins Reserve Zinfandel	Collins - Limerick Lane Vineyard, Old Vine	Russian River Valley	\$40.00	Platinum	96 points