

TOP U.S. WINES NAMED IN 2016 COMPETITION

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The Key to the 9th annual American Fine Wine Competition Results Wines from California swept Best of Show and Best of Class categories in South Florida's home-grown American Fine Wine Competition this week, with judges awarding a record number of gold and double gold medals among the 750 wines entered from vineyards throughout the United States.

"There were some interesting aspects of this year's competition," says Peg SanFelippo, one of the 24 judges in the ninth edition of the competition Jan. 17-18 at FIU's North Miami campus. "For the second year in a row there was a tie for best of show sparkling. A less traditional grape varietal and blend won in both best of show categories."

While wines from other states – notably Oregon but sometimes surprises from Ohio and Virginia – have been uncorked in the top winner categories in previous years, California wines captured all the Best of Class and Show categories this years. Many were from the 2012 vintage year, considered one of the finest recent harvests in the state's long wine-growing history.

In all, judges awarded 178 gold and 133 double gold medals in the competition, including 44 in the Cabernet Sauvignon category.

The complete winners list follows. All 750 wines, including the gold medal winners, will be available to sample with a gourmet dinner at the AFWC Charity Gala on Friday, April 8th, 2016 at Hyatt Pier 66 in Fort Lauderdale. The event, benefiting the Dolphins Cancer Challenge, will include a silent and live auction and music. Advance purchase price is \$300 per person. For more information call 561-558-2345 or visit americanfinewinecompetition.com.

- *Staff report*

American Fine Wine Competition Best of Class and Best of Show Winners

BEST OF CLASS BORDEAUX BLEND

2012 Jean-Charles Boisset Red Blend McCarthy Vineyard, Napa, Calif., \$350.