



DAN BERGER'S

INTERNATIONAL

• WINE & CIDER COMPETITIONS •

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**Award Winners Announced for
38th Dan Berger's International Wine Competition**

SANTA ROSA, Calif.—For the second year in a row, Jeff Runquist Wines earned the award for 2018 Winery of the Year from the judges at the 38th annual Dan Berger's International Wine Competition despite some strong challenges from a dozen other wineries.

The winery, based in Plymouth, Calif., and using fruit largely from the Sierra Foothills, entered 29 wines and took home 26 medals, 11 of them either golds or silvers. The awards included four best-of-class honors, for 2016s Runquist Sangiovese, Charbono, Primitivo and Carignane – the latter three wines earning the new Triple-Gold honors for a unanimous choice the panel of judges.

Runquist will receive the **David Stevens Memorial Trophy** as 2018 DBIWC Winery of the Year. Stevens, a widely loved winemaker, consultant, and wine competition judge, died unexpectedly this past April.

Miro Cellars of Geyserville, Calif., owned by winemaker Miro Tcholakov, won the trophy for **Small Winery of the Year** for the dramatic result of seven medals from all seven entries including two Triple-Gold medal, one gold, and three silver. In addition, Miro is the winemaker for Trentadue Winery, and it earned several medals including a Triple-Gold for a Zinfandel.

The **Terroir Trophy** for greatest achievement in using local grapes was a close race with several New York and Michigan wineries in the running, but St. James Winery, based in the Ozark Highlands of Missouri, was the winner with 29 medals out of 30 entries, many of them from either French-American hybrid or Native American grape varieties.

The **Value Winery of the Year** award again went to the nearly annual winner, Trinchero Wines of Napa Valley. The winery submitted 84 wines under several brands and won 68 medals. The average price of those wines was \$11.70.

Best of Show White Wine was 2017 Echo Bay Sauvignon Blanc from Marlborough, New Zealand (\$12)

Best of Show Red Wine was 2015 ZD Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley (\$75)

Best of Show Rosé Wine was 2017 Draxton Pinot Meunier Rosé, Napa Valley (\$18)

Best of Show Sparkling Wine was 2017 Sofia Brut Rosé from Francis Ford Coppola (\$19)

Best of Show Desert Wine was NV St. James Blackberry (\$9)

The **International Riesling Foundation** annually awards DBIWC trophies for the top four Rieslings in four sweetness categories and this year the awards went to:

--Best Dry Riesling: **2015 Langhart and Hill** Dry Riesling, Sonoma County, Gould Family Vineyard (\$24)

--Best Medium Dry Riesling: **2016 Forty-Five North** Riesling, Leelanau Peninsula, Winemakers Reserve (\$34)

--Best Medium-Sweet Riesling: **2016 Bowers Harbor** Riesling Block II, Old Mission Peninsula (\$32)

--Best Sweet Riesling, **2016 Wagner** Riesling, Finger Lakes, N.Y., "Riesling Select" (\$15)

Gold and Silver Medallions will be mailed out in July. Those wishing to have bronze medallions please contact Dan at winenut@gmail.com.

Available free of charge to all award winners at the DBIWC website are several self-printing options including medal labels for bottle displays, medal certificates, table tents, and shelf talkers.

Complete results are available in a flexible, easy-to-use database on the competition's website, dbiwc.com. If you have any questions about how to use the database, please call Dan at 707-479-9463.