



DAN BERGER'S INTERNATIONAL • WINE COMPETITION •

Jan 3, 2020

For the third year in a row, the trophy for Winery of the Year at Dan Berger's International Wine Competition was won by **Jeff Runquist Wines**, which has almost single-handedly added luster to the red wines of the Sierra Foothills and mid-eastern California.

Long known for its excellent Zinfandels, the Foothills region has recently been home to dozens of wineries making top-rate Barbera, Petite Sirah, and other reds from lesser-known varietals. And Runquist has been its most visible proponent.

Runquist earned the David Stevens Memorial Trophy for the feat of earning 10 awards of gold or above from 35 entries.

The Small Winery of the Year trophy was won by **Reustle Prayer Rock Winery** of Umpqua Valley, Oregon. This exceptional producer of numerous varietals submitted 18 wines and earned 10 medals that garnered silver-and-above including three golds.

Of almost 700 entries this year, the 21 professional wine judges awarded triple-gold medals to 42 wines, as well as 96 golds.

The five top sweepstakes wines were all reasonably priced:

Sparkling wine: Nonvintage **Barefoot** Brut Rosé, California

White wine: 2018 **Oak Farm** Fiano, Lodi, Mokelumne River, Lodi

Rosé: 2018 **Carol Shelton** Rendezvous Rosé, Mendocino County

Red wine: 2017 **Jeff Runquist** Petite Sirah, Clarksburg

Dessert wine: 2016 **Husch** Gewürztraminer Late Harvest, Anderson Valley

The four Riesling trophies, sponsored by the International Riesling Foundation, were:

Dry Riesling: 2018 **Hazlitt 1852** Dry Riesling, Finger Lakes, New York

Medium Dry Riesling: 2017 **Two K Farms Cidery and Winery** Riesling, Leelanau Peninsula, Michigan

Medium Sweet Riesling: 2017 **Chateau Lafayette Reneau** Riesling, Finger Lakes, New York

Sweet Riesling: 2018 **Navarro** Cluster Select Late Harvest Riesling, Anderson Valley

The Terroir Award for best use of local grapes went to **Two K Farms** of Leelanau Peninsula, Michigan, with four silvers and above

The Value Winery of the Year trophy was awarded to E&J Gallo's **Barefoot** wines with a best-of-class wine, a best-of show and an amazing 27 total awards from 32 entries. Almost every one of the entered wines sells for under \$10 a bottle.

For detailed results, see the competition website www.DBIWC.com, where there is an infinitely sortable database that includes wine prices. Or e-mail Dan Berger at winenut@gmail.com.