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BIG FRESNO FAIR ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 8TH ANNUAL SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY OLIVE OIL COMPETITION

An incredible 63 entries were received by olive oil producers throughout California

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA, June 6, 2023...After an extensive judging of quality California-produced olive oils, The Big Fresno Fair is excited to reveal the winners of the 8th Annual San Joaquin Valley Olive Oil Competition (SJVOOC). This competition, which is open to all olive oil producers in California with products made from their 2022 olive harvest, received a total of 63 entries from 27 different olive oil producers from throughout the State.

Entries were received in two categories: Extra Virgin Olive Oil (EVOO) and Flavored Olive Oil, with 10 classes in total. Gold and Silver Medals were awarded, as well as an overall “Best of Show” and “Best of the Valley” selected from all of the highest scoring gold medal entries in both categories. In total there were 44 EVOO and 19 Flavored Olive Oil entries that were entered for judging. The winners of the 8th Annual San Joaquin Valley Olive Oil Competition are as follows with counties of ranch locations noted in parenthesis:

Best of Show

Olivaia’s OLA Estate *Sevillano* (Tulare) - EVOO
Corto Olive Co. *Yuzu Citrus* (San Joaquin) – Flavored Olive Oil

Best of the Valley

J. Marchini Farms *Joe’s Premium 100% Mission* (Merced)

Extra Virgin Olive Oils

• Gold Medal Winners

- **Spanish Blends:** Corto Olive Co. *Truly* (San Joaquin), J. Marchini Farms *Joe’s Premium 100% Mission* (Merced), Cobram Estate Olive Oil *100% Extra Virgin Olive Oil – Robust* (Yolo/Sacramento), California Olive Ranch *Miller’s Blend* (Glenn)
- **Spanish Singles:** Rancho Azul y Oro Olive Farm *Arbequina* (Monterey), Olivaia’s OLA Estate *Sevillano* (Tulare), Grumpy Goats Farm *Organic Picual* (Yolo), The Olive Press *Picual* (Sonoma)
- **Italian Blends:** San Miguel Olive Farm *Tuscan Gold Eleganza* (San Luis Obispo), San Miguel Olive Farm *Tuscan Gold Paradiso* (San Luis Obispo)
- **Italian Singles:** Rio Bravo Ranch *Coratina* (Kern), Rio Bravo Ranch *Frantoio* (Kern), Tres Osos Olive Oil *Taggiasca* (Monterey), Grumpy Goats Farm *Organic Coratina* (Yolo), Grumpy Goats Farm *Organic Late Harvest Coratina* (Yolo), Grumpy Goats Farm *Organic Itrana* (Yolo), Sutter Buttes Olive Oil Co. *Coratina* (Sutter)





Extra Virgin Olive Oils, cont....

- **Gold Medal Winners**
 - **Other Blends:** OH Olive Oil (Kern), Olivaia's OLA Block X Heirloom (Tulare), Rio Bravo Ranch Miller's Reserve Blend (Kern)
 - **Other Singles:** Coastal Press Extra Virgin (Madera/Tulare)

- **Silver Medal Winners:**
 - **Spanish Blends:** Olivaia's OLA Block X Super (Tulare), Cobram Estate 100% Extra Virgin Olive Oil - Classic (Yolo/Sacramento) Cobram Estate Olive Oil 100% Extra Virgin Olive Oil - CA Select (Yolo/Sacramento)
 - **Spanish Singles:** Rio Bravo Ranch Picual (Kern), Coldani Olive Ranch Calivirgin Premium Extra Virgin Olive Oil (San Joaquin), Grumpy Goats Farm Organic Hojiblanca (Yolo), California Olive Ranch Reserve Arbequina (Glenn), California Olive Ranch Reserve Arbosana (Glenn)
 - **Italian Blends:** San Miguel Olive Farm Tuscan Gold Fantastico (San Luis Obispo), Rancho Azul y Oro Olive Farm Estate Olive Oil (Monterey), J. Marchini Farms Joe's Premium Tuscan Blend (Merced), Terra Savia Field Blend (Mendocino), Colomba Bianca Frantoio/Mission (San Joaquin)
 - **Italian Singles:** Terra Savia Moraiolo (Mendocino)

Flavored Olive Oils

- **Gold Medal Winners**
 - **Citrus:** Corto Olive Co. Yuzu Citrus (San Joaquin), Coldani Olive Ranch Calivirgin Lavish Lime (San Joaquin), Coldani Olive Ranch Calivirgin Blood Orange (San Joaquin)
 - **Pepper:** Corto Olive Co. Calabrian Chili (San Joaquin), The Olive Press Jalapeno (Sonoma)
 - **Other:** Rancho Azul y Oro Olive Farm Arbequina-Smoked (Monterey), Coldani Olive Ranch Calivirgin Jalapeno Garlic (San Joaquin), Sutter Buttes Olive Oil Co. Citrus Habanero Olive Oil (Sutter)

- **Silver Medal Winners**
 - **Citrus:** Rancho Azul y Oro Olive Farm Arbequina-Lemon (Monterey), The Olive Press Citron (Sonoma), Coastal Press Lemon Olive Oil (Madera/Tulare), Sutter Buttes Olive Oil Co. Meyer Lemon Olive Oil (Sutter)
 - **Herbal:** Coldani Olive Ranch Calivirgin Bountiful Basil (San Joaquin), Coldani Olive Ranch Calivirgin Rustic Rosemary (San Joaquin), Coastal Press Basil Olive Oil (Madera/Tulare)
 - **Pepper:** Coldani Olive Ranch Calivirgin Hot Virgin Jalapeno (San Joaquin)
 - **Other:** Coldani Olive Ranch Calivirgin Guilty Garlic (San Joaquin), Sutter Buttes Olive Oil Co. Garlic Herb Olive Oil (Sutter)

All winners will be on display in the Agriculture Building with educational information on the art of making olive oil and its health benefits. Gold Medal, Best of Show and Best of the Valley winners will have the opportunity to have a booth in the Agriculture Building on one day during a weekend at the 2023 Big Fresno Fair.





Participants in the 2023 SJVOOC were evaluated and scored on the following criteria:

- **Gold Medal:** Awarded to an olive oil that demonstrated its type and/or varietal character, balance, structure and complexities to the highest standards. Gold Medals were awarded to those oils receiving scores between 86 - 100 points.
- **Silver Medal:** Awarded to an olive oil reflecting the correct distribution of balance and character of its type or variety; an oil deemed to be well crafted and of excellent quality. Silver Medals were awarded to those oils receiving scores between 76 - 85 points.
- **Best of Show:** Awarded to an olive oil recognized to possess special characteristics of the highest quality overall.
- **Best of the Valley:** Awarded to the oil that scored the highest with the ranch or office located in the San Joaquin Valley. Medals were awarded for both EVOO and flavored oils. (Kern, Tulare, Kings, Fresno, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties eligible)

Details and the 2024 SJVOOC entry application will be posted in February 2024.

LINK TO WINNER PHOTOS: <https://spaces.hightail.com/space/VTJwvXPgF>

About The Big Fresno Fair:

The Big Fresno Fair, founded in 1884, is the 5th largest fair in the state of California and represents the 21st District Agricultural Association. Nearly 600,000 people from throughout the state visit The Big Fresno Fair each year, making it the largest annual event in the Central Valley. Members of the Board of Directors include: Terry Gonsalves, President; Gary Chahil, Vice President; Frank Flores, Secretary/Treasurer; Linda Mae Balakian Hunsucker; Jerry Pacheco; Annalisa Perea, Chuck Riojas and Lawrence Salinas. The 2023 Big Fresno Fair will run October 4 – 15. For more details, please visit www.FresnoFair.com.

