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**KING CITY HOSTS 27<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MONTEREY WINE COMPETITION**  
*Wine professionals to judge 700 wines from 8 countries at fairgrounds*

King City, CA – The Monterey International Wine Competition (MIWC) will host its 27th annual international wine competition March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Salinas Valley Fairgrounds in King City, CA. Organizers have received 706 entries from North America, Australia, Argentina, Chile, France, Italy, Spain and South Africa.

The Monterey Wine Competition began as a cooperative effort of Monterey area wine makers and the Salinas Valley Fair to award quality wines being made. Today the competition offers medals, a numerical score, regional awards and recognition of the best of varietal, too. “Five years ago the competition added special awards to recognize local vintners with the Best of Monterey County award,” explains Rich Cook, the competition’s Chief Wine Judge. “We also provide tasting notes for the consumer and producer for all of our Platinum Award Winning wines that are available online at the conclusion of the competition.”

The competition is organized by a committee of the Salinas Valley Fair chaired by Kevin Piearcy a Director of the Salinas Valley Fair Board and competition volunteer. Kevin explains, over 50 volunteers will help implement the tasks associated with managing a professional judging. “It takes a crew of dedicated and skilled people to handle all aspects of our competition. Most of our volunteers have been with us for ten or more years; making the whole event more like a class reunion! At the end of the day we all feel more connected and we are proud of the work we’ve accomplished to recognize the wine being made.”

Volunteers have been on hand since January organizing the temporary wine cellar to prepare for the weekend competition. The bulk of the volunteers arrive the day of the competition to fill roles such as dishwasher, labeler, clearer, pourer, server and sanitation.

While judging is a private event; the public is invited to taste the competition’s winning wines on May 14, 2020 at the Grand Tasting during the annual Salinas Valley Fair in King City. The Grand Tasting event ticket is only \$30 which includes admission to opening night of the fair, food sampling and

tasting from hundreds of wines entered during the 2020 Monterey Wine Competition. Don't miss you're your chance to sample the best award winning wines and take in all of the fun of a good old fashioned county fair!

Discover all of the events happening at the fairgrounds in King City at [www.SalinasValleyFair.com](http://www.SalinasValleyFair.com) and find event pricing and information. Celebrating the 76th Fair in 2020 the Salinas Valley Fair provides a venue for showcasing the agriculture in the area. It has grown to be one of the largest Junior Livestock Auctions in the state and attracts young people from throughout Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Luis Obispo and San Benito Counties. The Fair is designed to be a safe, accessible venue for education, community engagement, and fun in a wholesome, family friendly environment. It offers opportunities for people to gather through entertainment, interactive educational activities, agricultural competition and recognition programs, food and drink, and cultural events.

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Photo Cutline 4294: Judge Anna Marie Dos Remedios of Carmel Valley evaluates a flight of wine before assigning a platinum, gold or silver medal.

Photo Cutline 4354: Over 50 wine volunteers assist with all aspects of judging including washing and drying over 500 glasses every 45 minutes.

Photo Cutline 2020g: Chief Wine Judge Rich Cook writes tasting notes for all Platinum winning wines.