



March 9, 2018

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### **Monterey International Wine Competition Announces Awards**

KING CITY, CA - The 2018 Monterey International Wine Competition, wrapped up on Saturday, March 3rd at the Salinas Valley Fairgrounds in King City. Eighteen judges representing all aspects of the wine industry swirled and sipped through 773 entries, resulting in the selection of 50 Platinum Award winners, 150 Gold Award winners and 32 'Best of' award designations.

Platinum awards are reserved for wines scoring 94 points and above. Gold honors awarded to wines scoring 90 to 93 points. The wines scoring a minimum of 90 points and the highest point total in each category are recognized as the 'Best Of' for the 2018 competition.

Special honors include Wine of the Year - 2015 V. Sattui Cabernet Sauvignon Morisoli Vineyards (97 points) and the Best of Monterey County - 2016 Hahn Family Wines, Syrah Santa Lucia Highlands Estate Vineyard. (96 points).

This year's Winery of the Year is awarded to Carol Shelton Wines of Santa Rosa, CA. This award recognizes the overall quality of the wines entered in the competition.

"As always over my ten year association with the competition, entrants showed that their wines have a place on the world stage among the finest of their types and regions, and MIWC is proud to celebrate their achievements." *Rich Cook, Director and Chief Judge.*

In 2018, judges were also asked to find the best wine and chocolate pairings. Marich chocolate company of Hollister, CA provided a variety of confections to compliment the breadth of wines entered in the competition. In a blind tasting, Judges selected the V.Sattui 15 Year Aged Port (94 points) to pair with the Marich Chocolate Bourbon Caramels and to pair with the Marich dark chocolate strawberry balsamic a Sutter Home White Merlot.

For a complete list of competition results, tasting notes on Platinum Wine winners and The Best Chocolate pairing wines as well as other items of interest, visit [montereywinecompetition.com](http://montereywinecompetition.com).

The Monterey International Wine Competition Grand Tasting will be held on Thursday, May 17, the opening night of the Salinas Valley Fair. Over 500 people are expected to taste award winning wines from the competition, paired with Marich chocolates, fresh produce and cheeses while sampling foods from local caterers and restaurants. For event information and tickets go to [SalinasValleyFair.com](http://SalinasValleyFair.com) or call the Salinas Valley Fair office at 831-385-3243.

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