

## 2018 Finger Lakes International Wine Competition Competition Information for Judges

Here are some guidelines to follow which will make for another successful year. We will go over these on Saturday morning before the judging begins. Please feel free to let us know if you have any questions before then. Thank you and see you soon.

- ❖ There will be three or four judges at each table. A Panel Captain will be in charge of organizing flight results for the table.
- ❖ The tables that have only three judges will most likely have guest judges sitting with them at different times during the competition. A guest judge's score will not count in the panel's final results. The guests may be from the media, contributors to the camp, volunteers, students, or others from a variety of professions with a mixed background on wines. Please welcome them and assist them in understanding the process.
- ❖ We have tried to mix judges from different professions and regions to get good representation on each panel.
- ❖ All panels will be judging Vinifera, French-American and other hybrids, Native American varieties and specialty wines such as fruit or mead from all over the world. There will also be some spirits entered.
- ❖ We anticipate each panel trying about 125 wines a day, but the final total will be affected by the number of entries and your panel's evaluation speed. We will bring new wines to you when a previous flight is finished. Panels will be judging at their own pace and not on a set schedule. Some people judge slower or faster than others, so please be respectful of your panel mates and the process.
- ❖ When each flight is served, the Panel Captain should check the glasses for any flaws right away. If anyone on the panel thinks a wine may be corked or flawed in some other way, the Panel Captain should raise their hand. They will request either a re-pour from the same or new bottle. Give a winery the benefit of the doubt and ask for that re-pour if you have any questions. There is one bottle poured and a second bottle in the backroom for each wine entered.
- ❖ We will use a simple evaluation sheet, similar to that used in other competitions, for you to write down your comments and medal choices. We will not be using a number system for scoring. You can keep your individual evaluation sheets because the Panel Chair will hand in a separate summary sheet with the panel's individual and final medals recorded.
- ❖ Medals awarded include Double Gold (unanimous panel agreement), Gold, Silver, Bronze and No Award (flawed). There are no pre-set percentages for each medal category. A few judges will be asked to judge the Best-in-Class flights which include the Best Champagne/Sparkling, Chardonnay, Riesling, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Fruit and Ice Wine. In memory of esteemed judge, Raul Castellani, there is a Best South American Wine as well.

- ❖ You will all taste independently first and complete your own evaluations of each wine. When all panelists have finished, the Panel Captain will ask each panelist for medal recommendations. We recommend rotating who gives their medal results first each wine or flight. If there is consensus on a particular wine, the Panel Captain writes down the medal on their sheet without a need for further discussion. If there is disparity between medals for a particular wine, re-taste it and discuss with the panel. Some judges will be more familiar with certain grapes and styles, so be open to suggestions on how to approach the wines. If there is still no agreement, call the Head Judge over to assist.
- ❖ Give the same attention to the last wine you judge that you give the first and all of the wines in between. Each winery pays a fee and deserves a fair evaluation.
- ❖ At the end of each flight, please remove the tag numbers on the base of your glasses and dump the remaining wine into the dump bucket. This will help the backroom volunteers clear and prepare the glasses for the next flight.
- ❖ You are welcome to use social media during the competition. We ask though that you refrain from negative and potentially controversial posts as well as sharing medal information before we have released the official results.
- ❖ The competition committee is always open to constructive comments on ways to improve your experience at the competition. Please let us know along the way and/or at the end. We will have a paper for you to fill out on Sunday.
- ❖ Finally, check your ego at the door! You will be among judges from all over the world that bring different perspectives to the table. Ultimately, this is to benefit Camp Good Days and Special Times, where great things happen!