



## THE JEFFERSON CUP INVITATIONAL WINE COMPETITION

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**The Jefferson Cup Invitational**  
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Kansas City, Missouri – The Jefferson Cup Invitational has celebrated its thirteenth year as the only competition that honors the best of the best among wineries from *all* of America’s wine regions. Each year we select great wines from across America; the 2012 competition included wines from twenty-three states. At the end of the second day of this year's tasting, November 18<sup>th</sup>, wines from TWELVE different states had captured top honors. Just as the event’s namesake would have it, democracy reigned at this year’s Jefferson Cup Wine Competition.

The two-day competition culminated with the awarding of TWENTY-NINE Jefferson Cup Awards. Jefferson Cups were awarded to wines made from both vinifera vines (a European species responsible for most famous wines such as Chardonnay and Cabernet) and non-vinifera vines, which flourish in the more extreme climates in the center portion of the U.S.

These twenty-nine prestigious Jefferson Cups were awarded to eight white wines, sixteen red wines, one sparkler and four dessert wines. “While many competitions insist upon selecting a pre-ordained number of sweepstakes winners, our judges are allowed to find the top wines, whether there are only one, two or three, or even NO winners in some categories, as has happened in previous years,” says Jefferson Cup Invitational founder Doug Frost. “Indeed, there was no rose’ winner this year, though a number of roses won awards. Best of all, there were once again great examples of wine, both from vinifera and non-vinifera grapes.” Together with fifty other wines nominated for (but not awarded) the Jefferson Cup, these twenty-nine wines represent some of the most compelling wines made in America.

This year’s Jefferson Cup competition saw some very notable developments and successes. Two wineries, Augusta Winery (Missouri) and Michael David Winery (California) won TWO Jefferson Cups each. And although many expect California to dominate the awards, Jefferson Cups were won by eleven other states: Colorado, Arizona, Michigan, Nebraska, Ohio, Missouri, Kansas, New York, South Dakota, Virginia and Washington State each.

And there were numerous repeat winners: New York's Swedish Hill won a Jefferson Cup for the third year in a row. Augusta Winery, Virginia's Jefferson Vineyards, Ohio's Debonne Vineyards, Nebraska's James Arthur Vineyards and Kansas' Bluejacket Crossing won again just as they did last year. Moreover, wines from the state of Missouri indeed bested California, winning seven Jefferson Cups to California's five Cups.

Nonetheless, as in years past, the West Coast was well represented. Five reds from California won; and in another remarkable victory, Michael-David won again in a mind-boggling seven-year string of victories for that winery.

"Once upon a time, the Jefferson Cup might have focused upon Syrah or Cabernet," says Frost, "But this year, there was greater diversity of wines, with non-vinifera wines dominating the white wine and dessert categories. Though vinifera grapes dominated among the red wines, I am very pleased with the way the Jefferson Cup Invitational Competition has developed," Mr. Frost said. "We had a representation of the best of what every quality wine producing region in the country is offering right now, including improved representation from Washington, Michigan, Virginia and Texas as well as some standout wines from California, New York and Colorado."

The Jefferson Cup Invitational is a thirteen-year-old competition founded by Doug Frost, one of only three individuals in the world to have achieved the titles of Master Sommelier and Master of Wine. "In most other competitions there is 'open' seating," says Frost, "and California represents 90% of the entries. As a result it usually captures 90% of the honors," he said. "I can now foresee a time when that will not happen. What we are doing is following Mr. Jefferson's example and allowing every quality wine-producing region in America a place at our table. We look forward to continuing to grow our competition as the rest of the country continues to grow the quality of their products."

"While many may know him from his well-chronicled political role, most Americans have no idea just how influential Jefferson was in the way we eat and drink and live today", Mr. Frost said. "To call Mr. Jefferson ahead of his time where food and wine are concerned is the ultimate understatement," Mr. Frost said. "Mr. Jefferson was growing grapes that did not really come into vogue in this country until 20 years ago!"

Best of all, this year's Jefferson Cup coincided with our seventh annual fundraiser for AngelFlight Central, a great charity that gives support for private pilots offering travel to people in medical emergencies. The Jefferson Cup fundraisers raised more than \$100,000 for Angel Flight Central this year.

## *About the Jefferson Cup Invitational*

The Thirteenth Annual Jefferson Cup Invitational took place on November 15 and November 16, 2012 in Kansas City, Missouri. The Jefferson Cup is a different sort of wine competition, in that it is an invitational in which over seven hundred wines are pre-selected which exemplify viticulture and winemaking in America.

The Jefferson Cup Invitational does not award golds, silvers and the like. Rather, the invited wines have all proven their excellence in competitions and tastings throughout the last year. We believe and try to publicize our belief that these are wines that are extremely deserving of the nation's attention.

This year, out of over seven hundred chosen wines, the judges selected just over three hundred wines to receive the "Medals of American Merit", which respects wines exemplary of their regions and varieties, and is comparable to a Silver Medal at most competitions. Next the judges chose one hundred sixty wines (there was no pre-ordained number or percentage) that they believed were truly great wines, roughly equivalent to Gold Medals in other competitions. Those will receive medallions announcing them as "Medals of American Excellence".

This year, seventy-nine wines were selected as Jefferson Cup nominees; these wines were nominated by the six judging committees to be considered for Jefferson Cups. Out of those seventy-nine honored wines, the judges collectively picked twenty-nine wines to be awarded the Jefferson Cup. By selecting both vinifera and non-vinifera wines for the Jefferson Cup each year, the hope is to respect the diversity of American viticulture and Jefferson's own acceptance of native varieties and hybrids.

This year's judges included the following industry luminaries: Wayne Belding MS (past Chairman of the Court of Master Sommeliers-Americas), Laura dePasquale MS (one of the world's few female Master Sommeliers), Ellen Landis (proprietress of Landis Shores Resort at California's Half Moon Bay and long time California wine competition judge), Bob Foster (writer, *The California Grapevine*), Mendel Kohn (a San Francisco based industry professional and wine and spirits judge), Doug Frost MS, MW (author and consultant), Robert Noecker (a Midwestern wholesaler and thirty year veteran of the wine industry), Jeff Miller (a Kansas distributor of two and a half decades experience), Guy Stout MS (Texas-based Southern Wine Spirits education director), and Joyce Angelos (a Missouri wholesaler and industry veteran of twenty-five years).

The Jefferson Cup is partially supported by the Missouri Grape and Wine Program, an extension of the Department of Agriculture, State of Missouri.

**Doug Frost MS, MW**

*Director, Jefferson Cup Invitational*

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## The 2012 JEFFERSON CUP winners are:

### For Sparkling Wine:

Trump Winery Blanc de Blanc 2008 Monticello, Virginia

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### For White Vinifera Wine:

Hedgeline Riesling 2011 Washington

Left Foot Charley Riesling Seventh Hill Farm 2011 Old Mission Peninsula, MI

Jefferson Vineyards Chardonnay 2011 Monticello, Virginia

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### For White Non-Vinifera Wine:

Augusta Winery Seyval Blanc 2011 Missouri

Montelle Winery Chardonal 2011 Missouri

Les Bourgeois Vineyards Traminette Collector's Series 2011 Missouri

James Arthur Vineyards Vignoles 2011 Nebraska

Inspire Moore Harmony 2011 Finger Lakes

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### For Red Vinifera Wine:

Kendall-Jackson Pinot Noir Vintner's Reserve 2010 California

Michael David Winery 6<sup>th</sup> Sense Syrah 2010 Lodi

Bookcliff Vineyards Ensemble 2010 Colorado

Dos Cabezas WineWorks Toscano Cimmaron Vineyard 2010 Cochise County, AZ

Cakebread Cellars Dancing Bear Ranch 2009 Howell Mountain

DeLille Cellars Doyenne Metier Rouge 2010 Yakima Valley

Chateau Ste Michelle Cabernet Sauvignon Cold Creek Vineyard 2009 Yakima Valley

Michael David Winery Petite Petit 2010 Lodi

Rodney Strong Zinfandel Estate Knotty Vines 2010 Northern Sonoma County

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### For Red Non-Vinifera Wine:

White Tail Run Winery Chambourcin Dry Oak nv Kansas

Swedish Hill Vineyard Marechal Foch 2011 Finger Lakes

BlueJacket Crossing Winery Norton nv Kansas

Cave Vineyard Strussione Norton 2009 Ozark Mountain

Augusta Winery Norton Estate Bottled 2010 Augusta

Jowler Creek Red Cock-a-doodle-do nv Missouri

Prairie Berry Winery Calamity Jane nv American

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### For Dessert Wine:

Sheldrake Point Winery Riesling Ice Wine 2010 Finger Lakes

Debonne Vineyard Vidal Ice Wine Express 2011 Grand River Valley

Ladoga Ridge Winery Strawberry Rhubarb nv Missouri

Breitenbach Wine Cellars Solera Cream Sherry nv Ohio

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