

Arkansas Quality Wine



Annual Wine Competition Rules

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture developed the Arkansas Quality Wine Program (AQW), a two-year program funded by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Grant Program to advance the Arkansas grape and wine industry. An annual wine competition will be held for commercial grape wines produced in Arkansas.

For more information visit the Arkansas Association of Grape Growers website (<https://www.argrapegrowers.org>).

New Again This Year!

Wines can be entered in the Arkansas Wine Competition (Arkansas made wines, limit of 5 wine entries/winery) or the AQW Wine Competition (Arkansas grown and made, no limit wine entries).

Who Can Participate in the Wine Competition?

- Participation in the wine competition is voluntary
- Wines must be submitted from a bonded commercial Arkansas winery

What Wines can be Entered in the Wine Competition?

- Categories of wines
 - European (*Vitis vinifera*)
 - Hybrids
 - American (*Vitis labrusca*, *rotundifolia* and *aestivalis*)
 - Fortified/Dessert
- No fruit wines or essence (formula) wines
- Wines labeled as follows:
 - Estate = 100% estate-grown grapes
 - Vintage = 85% of named vintage
 - Appellation = 85% of named appellation
 - Varietal = 75% of named varietal

What is the Cost to Enter Wine in the Wine Competition?

- Entry fee is \$25 per wine

How to Enter Wines in the Wine Competition?

- Deadline to enter is May 10
- Two 750 mL bottles or 2 375 bottles required for each wine entered
 - Sensory evaluation and re-pour
- Minimum of 20 cases available for sale at winery

How are Wines Evaluated in the Wine Competition?

- Sensory evaluation of wines done by experienced wine judges using a 20-point wine competition scoring system

What Awards are Given in the Wine Competition?

- Best of Arkansas
 - Overall Best of Arkansas, Best of Arkansas White, and Best of Arkansas Red
- Medals
 - Double Gold (all judges award gold), Gold (17-20 pts), Silver (15-16 pts) and Bronze (13-14 pts)

AQW wines receive AQW marketing materials to market wines!

Wines entered in the AQW Wine Competition must meet the following criteria:

- Wines made from 90% Arkansas grown grapes
- Quality seal designation is for submitted wine
 - Subsequent vintages, blends, production or bottling must be resubmitted
- No limit on wine entries
- Three 750 mL bottles or 4 375 bottles required
 - Sensory evaluation, re-pour, and analysis
- Chemical analysis will be done on wines at the UA System Food Science Department
 - Alcohol level, sulfur dioxide, and volatile acidity
- Wines must be compliant with Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau regulations
- Wines must receive 15 points or higher on a 20-point scale to be eligible for AQW designation