

## Sacramento Home Winemakers

### Winemaker of the Year Selection Criteria

The Rex Johnston Home Winemaker of the Year (WoY) award encourages excellence in wine making among all club members. One of the best measures of excellence is the opinion of qualified judges in a structured competition environment. This award further acknowledges member wine makers who have applied their wine making skills and knowledge to produce outstanding wines.

#### DEFINITIONS

**Award Year:** competitions entered January 1 through November 30 of the year being considered. A competition is considered to have been in the Award Year if the actual judging is conducted and awards given during the Award Year.

**Total Points:** The sum of points awarded to non-excluded wines from all three competitions.

**Average Points:** Total Points divided by the total number of non-excluded wines from all three competitions.

Note: See below for Average Points and Total Points calculations

**Non-Excluded Entries:** wines whose points are used to calculate Total Points and Average Points. Non-Excluded Entries include the same two required wines (wines A and B on entry form).

Here's a quick summary about competing for the Club's WoY.

- Candidates compete in at least three competitions of which two are required and the third is a recognized competition of the entrant's choice;
- The same two separate and distinct wines must be non-excluded in all three competitions.
- Low performing wines may be excluded from consideration.
- Points are summed for all non-excluded wines (Total Points) in all three competitions and divided by the total number of non-excluded wines to arrive at the Average Points.
- The candidate with the highest Average Points is the Winemaker of the Year.

All candidates must meet entry requirements as specified below.

## QUALIFICATIONS AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

1. Candidates must be members of SHW in good standing who are not the owners, winemakers or employees of licensed/bonded winemaking concerns, except as set forth below.
2. Candidates who are owners, winemakers or employees of commercial winemaking concerns, but who are otherwise qualified, may submit wines for competition provided that such wines were made and bottled prior to the effective date of the winery being bonded.
3. Candidates certify that the wines they submit for competition are 100% homemade wines created by the candidate/team without any hands-on assistance from a commercial winemaking concern as described above. However, consultation with commercial winemakers and educators is encouraged by the club.
4. When entering this competition as a team (two or more winemakers who have made the wines together), the team must enter all three qualifying competitions with the same team members and same team name. Every member of the team must be SHW members.

### Notes:

1. Wines made by a team are team wines and cannot be entered by the team members individually.
2. Some competitions may use a default (autofill) entrant name based on previous submittals and may differ from the name you plan to use for the WoY competition. Notify the Assistant Chief Judge via email prior to the submittal of your WoY entry form as required by "4." above of this possibility to ensure your entries count.
5. Candidates must compete in a minimum of three recognized wine competitions during the Award Year. Regardless of the number of competitions entered, the results of only three competitions may be used in the WoY competition.
6. Among the recognized competitions entered, the two required competitions are the SHW Jubilee Wine Competition and the California State Fair Home Wine Competition.
7. A minimum of two separate and distinct wines, varietal/blend and/or vintage must be entered in all three of the competitions for consideration of WoY. These wines cannot be excluded.
8. Candidates can submit any number of wines to the competitions being considered.
9. The competition proceeds when a minimum of two candidates submit applications for WoY. It is suggested that the previous year's recipient not submit for the current year to provide a more open competition for all club members.

## **ENTRY FORM – COMPLETE AND SUBMIT**

### Complete

1. Use the WoY Entry Form to submit your entry. Download the 2-page Entry Form from the SHW website.
2. In addition to the SHW Jubilee Wine Competition and California State Fair Home Wine competitions, indicate your third competition.
3. Enter the two required wines (the same two wines are entered in all 3 competitions) in rows A and B.
4. Enter all of the wines you entered for each of the 3 competitions.
5. Enter the earned award points for each wine for each competition:
  - No award – 0 points
  - Honorable Mention - 10 points
  - Bronze Award – 20 points
  - Silver Award - 30 points
  - Gold Award - 40 points
  - Double Gold Award - 50 points
6. If any of the wines were awarded a Best of Division (BoD), please indicate. Unsure? Contact the Assistant Chief Judge.

Note: for example, the California State Fair awards “Best of Red”, “Best of White”, and “Best of Other”, and the Orange County Fair awards multiple “Best of Show” awards. For both competitions, for the purpose of WoY, these awards are considered Best of Division awards.

7. Decide which wines you wish to exclude (see Excluded Wines below) and indicate as such.

### Excluded Wines

Poorly performing/scoring wines in a competition can pull down the overall WoY point total. To offset this, the following encourages club members to enter multiple wines in a competition without the consequence of being penalized by poorly scoring wine entries:

- When 4 wines are entered in a competition, 1 wine may be excluded
- When 5 wines are entered in a competition, 2 wines may be excluded
- When more than 5 wines are entered in a competition, 3 wines may be excluded

Note: the two required wines (Wine A and Wine B) cannot be excluded (See Qualifications and Entry Requirements, 7.).

### Submit

Submit your entry form to the Assistant Chief Judge by 5 pm November 30 of Award Year. The Assistant Chief Judge will verify all entries and submit the top scorer and all applications to the President for review and approval.

The Winemaker of the Year is the entrant who earns the highest Average Points. The “Best of Division” as defined by SHW, or equal shall be used for tiebreakers. Should a tie still exist between contestants, multiple WoY awards will be awarded.

The scores of all candidates will be publicized to club members. All questions can be directed to Assistant Chief Judge Bill Staehlin at [bill.staehlin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bill.staehlin@sbcglobal.net).

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### **Entry Form Example**

<u>Competition: Jubilee</u>	<u>Competition: State Fair</u>	<u>Competition: WM Choice</u>
Wine A	Wine A	Wine A
Wine B	Wine B	Wine B
Wine C	Wine D	Wine E
	Wine F	Wine F

In this Example:

- Wines A and B are the required wine entries (non-excluded) and included in all 3 competitions.
- 11 total wines have been submitted. One wine each from competitions B and C may be excluded except for Wines A and B. If 2 wines are excluded, the total of non-excluded wines is 9 and these wines' points added together equal Total Points.

The WoY criteria were adopted by the Executive Board on July 1, 2009, and amended on April 11, 2012, May 2, 2021, October 10, 2022, and January 1, 2025, and edited for clarification February 14, 2026.