

Welcome to New England



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BIG E WINE, CIDER & PERRY COMPETITION RAISES ITS GLASS TO NEW ENGLAND AND NEW YORK WINNERS

The annual Big E Northeast Gold Wine, Cider and Perry Competition showcased some of the best-tasting wines and ciders of New England and New York! This year, 274 entries from 51 different participating wine and cider makers were judged at Eastern States Exposition on June 9, 2018 by six panels of aficionados from across the East Coast.

Judges evaluated the wines based on the 20 point UCAL Davis System and the honors awarded were Double Gold, Gold, Silver and Bronze. There were also awards given for the best of each state and category. Ciders were evaluated based on the 50 point BJCP system and honors were awarded in Gold, Silver and Bronze, as well as best of each state.

Of the 219 entries, results for the wine component of the competition were as follows:

Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards, of Naples, New York, was named this year's Premier Exhibitor and received Double Gold for both their Red Cat Fizz and Bramble Berry. The winery also won Best New York Grown for their Red Cat Fizz; Silver for their Red Cat, White Cat F, and Cabin Fever; and Bronze for White Stag, White Cat Fizz, White Cat Sangria and Red Cat Sangria.

For their Double Gold-winning Cherry Vanilla, Helderberg Meadworks, in New York, brought home Best Fruit Wine as well as Best New York Wine. They received Silver medals for their Heritage and Staghorn Mead and Bronze for Odin's Tears and Black Currant.

The award for Best Grape Wine went to Arrigoni Winery, of Portland, Connecticut, for Ruby, which also took home a Gold medal. This winery also received: Best Connecticut Wine; Gold for their Old Country wine; Silver for their Smashed Pumpkin, Summer Daze, Chocolate Love, Sugar House, Pearl and Red Select; and Bronze for their After Dinner, Brilliance, Rozy and Sunset.

Other state awards are as follows: Staehly Farm Winery won Best Connecticut Grown for their Blueberry Breeze, which also won Gold; Best Massachusetts Wine was awarded to Russell Orchards Farm and Winery for their Gold-winning Wild Blueberry; Pear Wine brought Hardwick Vineyard & Winery the Best Massachusetts Grown award; LaBelle Winery was honored with Best New Hampshire Wine for their Silver-winning Seyval Blanc; Jewell Town Vineyards won Best New Hampshire Grown for their Vidal Ice Wine, which also won Silver; Best Vermont Wine, Best Vermont Grown, and Gold were awarded to North Branch Vineyards for their Proprietor's Blend; Newport Vineyards, with their Gewurztraminer, received Best Rhode Island Wine and Best Rhode

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Island Grown; and Prospect Hill Winery's Sabrevois earned them Best Maine Wine and Best Maine Grown awards.

Further Double Gold and Gold medal winners include Adirondack Winery, Double Gold, for their Pinot Gris and Glorie Farm Winery, Gold, for their Cabernet Franc.

Of the 55 entries, results for the cider component of the competition were as follows:

Best Cider, Best Massachusetts Cider & Gold: West County Cider for their Redfield (also won Silver for additional entries)

Best Connecticut Cider & Gold: Staehly Farm Winery DBA Yankee Cider Company for their Semi-Sweet Apple Wine (also won Bronze for additional entries)

Best New York Cider & Gold: Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards for Hazlitt's Cider Tree Light 'n Dry (also won Bronze for additional entries)

Best Vermont Cider & Silver: Citizen Cider for their Brose (also won Silver for additional entries)

Best Maine Cider & Silver: Ricker Hill Farms Inc. for Mainiac Gold (also won Silver and Bronze for additional entries)

Best Rhode Island Cider & Bronze: Newport Vineyards for their Rhody Coyote

Additional Gold medal winners include Ragged Hill Cider Company for their Traditional Semi-Dry and Bantam Cider Company for their Hibiscus Mint.

During the Fair, a selection of the competition winners will be displayed inside the Eastern States Farmers Market and Wine Barn. A selection of participating wineries will also provide samples for tasting and purchase. For a complete listing of the competition results, visit TheBigE.com.

The Big E returns Sept. 14-30. Visit TheBigE.com for a full schedule of events and join the fairtime excitement on social media.

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Publications:

Patch (NH) tips@patch.com

Daily Hampshire Gazette

theobserver@citilink.net (NY)

SunJournal – Lewiston-Auburn (online submission)

ShoreLine Times (CT) – sbraden@ctcentral.com

Wine Pubs

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