

DEPARTMENT 2114 WINEMAKING EXHIBIT

GENERAL INFORMATION

Chairperson: Trudi Perry

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or text (978) 395-7937

IMPORTANT DATES

Entry Form Due: Sunday, September 20th, 2026

Entry Receiving: Sunday, September 20th, 2026

Entry Pick Up: Tuesday, October 13th, 2026 (**BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**)

Entry Fee: \$10.00 (Amateur Wine Competition),
(*online only*) **\$3.00 per exhibitor**

DIVISIONS AND CLASSES

AMATEUR WINE LABEL COMPETITION

The Wine Label Competition will be displayed at the Coolidge Hall Building.

- Labels must reflect good taste and must be submitted permanently mounted on white poster board (or equal material), size 8 ½" x 11", with entrant's full name and address printed on back of poster board.
- Only the front label should be submitted.
- Labels will be judged at the conclusion of the Winemaking Competition and will be displayed at the Topsfield Fair on October 2nd - October 12th, 2026.
- Ribbons & Scoring Sheets will be mailed out to entrants after Wednesday, October 14th, 2026.

The Wine Label Competition placements are as follows:

- Best of Show
- First Place
- Second Place
- Third Place
- Honorable Mention

The wine label which garners Best of Show receives a blue ribbon, an engraved plaque and a \$50 premium.

The judging room is not open to the public or the contestants.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. **ENTRY DEADLINE** is Sunday, September 20th, 2026. Wine labels are to be delivered to the Topsfield Fair Administration Building (207 Boston Street, Topsfield).
2. The person entering the label must be the artist.
3. A professional panel of judges selects ribbon & premium winners based on artistic merit, which includes: **Originality, Subject Manner, Artistic Content**
4. Wine label judges will handle the labels with care, but will not be responsible for any loss or damage.
5. The winners will be announced at the Topsfield Fair, October 2nd – October 12th, 2026.
6. Ribbons & Scoring Sheets will be mailed out to entrants after Wednesday, October 14th, 2026.

WINE LABEL COMPETITION

CLASS B

LOT

1. Wine Label – Hand-Drawn (Painting/Drawing)
2. Wine Label – Computer Graphics

WINEMAKING COMPETITION GENERAL INFO

Scoring will be based on the wine evaluation chart shown below on a scale of 20 points:

Appearance	3
Aroma and Bouquet	6
Taste	6
Aftertaste	3
Overall	2

Minimum qualifications for place awards are as follows:

Best of Show	Minimum of 15 points
First Place	Minimum of 13 points
Second Place	Minimum of 10 points
Third Place	Minimum of 7 points
Honorable Mention	Minimum of 6 points

If in the judges' opinion a wine is not worthy of mention, no points will be awarded. Fewer than 4 awards may be made in each category.

The winemaker who garners Best of Show receives a blue ribbon, an engraved plaque, and a \$100 premium.

The judging room is not open to the public or the contestants.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. **ENTRY DEADLINE** is Sunday, September 20th, 2026. Wines are to be delivered to the Topsfield Fair Administration Building (207 Boston Street, Topsfield).
2. **ENTRY FEE** is \$10.00 for each wine entered. **TWO BOTTLES** per entry are required. Bottles will not be returned. (Make checks payable to: **Topsfield Fair**).
3. Each winemaker is limited to a total of **EIGHT (8) ENTRIES** and no more than **THREE (3) ENTRIES** per class. Each entry must be of **different ingredients or vintages**.
4. **FOUR PLACES** in each class will be awarded ribbons. Each place may have more than one ribbon awarded if deemed worthy. When exhibits are not deemed worthy, the judges will not award ribbons. The “Best of Show” will be awarded an engraved plaque and will also receive a \$100 premium.
5. **ONLY HOMEMADE WINE MAY BE ENTERED.** Amateur wines **SHALL NOT CONTAIN ANY COMMERCIAL WINE, FLAVORED BRANDIES, OR LIQUERS** unless it is generally accepted in the wine style. (Example: Fortified Port Wine).
6. **The person entering the wine must be the winemaker.**
7. Wine should be clear, not hazy & free of visible debris.
8. Use **ONE** entry form for **EACH** bottle entered. Entry form can be reproduced. Wines may be disqualified if the entry form is incomplete or illegible.
9. Attach only the official entry form label to the bottle. Use **2 pieces of transparent tape, attaching only at the sides of the label. DO NOT** use double stick (two sided) tape.
10. Wine judges will handle the bottles with care, but will not be responsible for any loss or damage.
11. The winners will be announced at the Topsfield Fair, October 2nd – October 12th, 2026.
12. Ribbons & Scoring Sheets will be mailed out to entrants after Wednesday, October 14th, 2026.
13. **All entrants must be over 21 years of age.**
14. **Entrants can email any questions to:**
trudi.alfalfafarmwinery@gmail.com

WINE CLASSIFICATIONS

RED GRAPE – DRY OR SEMI-DRY VINIFERA

CLASS C

1. Cabernet Sauvignon
2. Zinfandel
3. Merlot
4. Other Red Viniferas (and blends of Vinifera grapes i.e. Zinfandel & Alicante)

WHITE GRAPE- DRY OR SEMI-DRY VINIFERA

CLASS D

1. Chardonnay
2. Other White Viniferas (including blends of white Vinifera grapes)

CLASS E

1. Red or White Grape- Semi-Sweet or Sweet Vinifera

CLASS F

1. French Hybrid Red Grape

CLASS G

1. French Hybrid White Grape

CLASS H

1. Red or White Grape Concentrate or Kit

CLASS I

1. Rose or Blush Wines (May be a blend of red or white grapes)

CLASS J

1. Fruit (examples: Peach, Cherry, Plum and/or blends Apple, Pear, Rhubarb and/or blends)

CLASS K

1. Berry

CLASS L

1. Novelty/Specialty (Novelty such as flower, vegetable, or herb). Specialty such as Sherry, Madeira, Port or other high alcohol or special wine making method)

CLASS M

1. Red Grape Blends (Table Wine)

CLASS N

1. White Grape Blends (Table Wine)

OFFICIAL RULES

Topsfield Fair General Rules & Information