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The World The 2021 San Francisco International Wine Competition



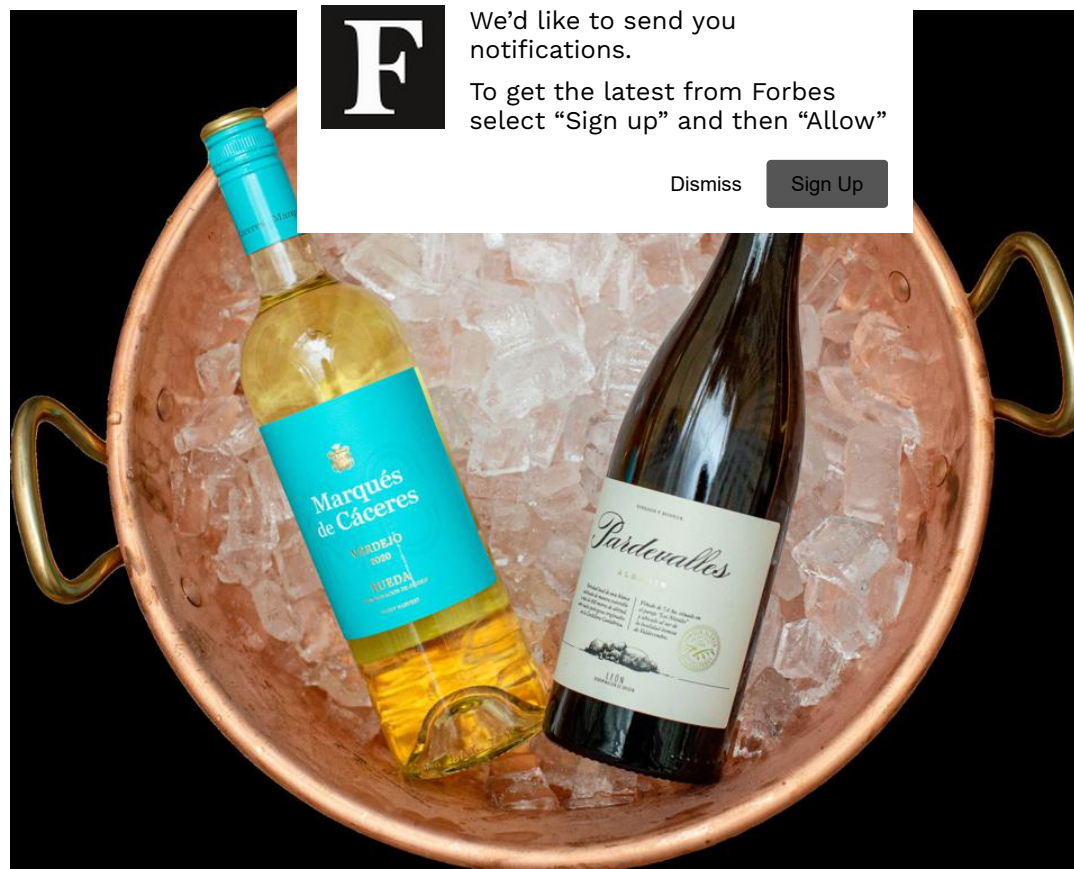
Joseph V Micallef Contributor ⓘ

Spirits

I write about wines and spirits and the hidden corners of the world

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The Best in Show White Wine, 97 points, Double Gold medal was the Pardevalles 2020 Alberin, D.O. ... [+] PHOTO COURTESY KATELYN TUCKER PHOTOGRAPHY/SFIWC

Founded in 1980, the San Francisco International Wine Competition (SFIWC) is the oldest American wine competition and second only to the International Wine and Spirits Competition globally.

The judging, now in its 41st year, is arguably one of the most important wine competitions in the world and the most prestigious American competition.

The competition is part of The Tasting Alliance, the parent organization of the equally renowned San Francisco World Spirits Competition, the New York World Wine and Spirits Competition and the Singapore World Spirits Competition.

This year, more than 200
evaluate and score more
wines were from North



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The Best in Show White Wine, 97 points, Double Gold medal was the **Pardevalles 2020 Alberin, D.O. Leon, Spain, \$13**. The wine also took the top award in the Best Spanish, Argentine, Portuguese White Grape varietal category. At a list price of \$13, it also represents an incredible value for what is without doubt one of the top ranked white wines in the world. Definitely one to buy by the case.

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The official SFIWC tasting note described it as:

Distinctive lemon lime notes with green fruit and hint of stone fruit on the nose. It shows a hint of sea breeze savoriness, around a core of earth/wet stone minerality with a bright tangy finish.



Samples of white wines awaiting judging at the 2021 SFIWC PHOTO COURTESY KATELYN TUCKER PHOTOGRAPHY/SFIWC

The Best Chardonnay, 94 points, Double Gold medal, was the **Trentadue Winery 2020 La Storia Chardonnay, Russian River Valley, California, USA, \$28**. The tasting note called it:

Slightly reductive on the nose with a touch of smoke and some over ripe green fruits. Thick layered, viscous quality with a pronounced palate weight. A classic oaky Chardonnay with a long lingering finish of well-integrated wood notes and green fruit.

The Best Chardonnay, 95 points, Double Gold medal was the **Paddy Borthwick 2020 Paper Road White Blend, Gladstone, Wairarapa, New Zealand, \$23**. The judging panel described it as:

Distinctive lemon lime notes followed by ripe green fruit, and a hint of stone fruit. Angular on the palate with a vibrant acidity and mineral tension that leads to a long,

layered finish.

The Best Chenin Blanc,
2020 Proprietor's Reserve
USA, \$28. The tasting



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Hints of citrus on the nose, along with ripe Japanese pear. Classic cool climate Chenin blanc with a dry, chalk note and an al dente finish.

The top ranked Italian White Varietal, 95 points, Double Gold medal was the
Mandarossa 2020 Costadune Grillo, Sicilia DOC, Italy, \$12. An exceptional
value, often found for under \$10. The official SFIWC tasting note described the wine as:

Ripe green fruit with a hint of stone fruit on the nose carries over to the palate. Earthy, with a hint of brush and dried mushroom on a layered, nuanced palate. Medium acidity, and a lingering, layered finish of green fruit.



A judging panel at the 2021 SFIW

The Best Pinot Grigio, c

Vineyards 2020 Pin

priced wine. The officia



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Ripe, fresh green fruit on the nose with a distinctive tang on the palate. It offers up a soft creamy core with a minerally tension and a crisp vibrant finish.

The Best Riesling, 97 points, Double Gold medal, **Cellardoor Winery 2019**

Riesling, Yakima Valley, Washington, USA, \$17. The SFIWC tasting note

described it as:

Floral with ripe green fruit on the nose and palate with a slight apple sweetness. Off dry, with a tangy acidity, and a hint of minerality. An ideal food wine that will match perfectly with any sea food especially shellfish.

New Zealand took top honors for the Best Sauvignon Blanc, 94 points, Double Gold medal, Whitehaven **2020 Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand, \$20.**

The tasting note described the wine as:

Classic Sauvignon blanc profile with lemon lime notes, hints of brush and earth. It has a distinctive tangy core and a lingering citrus and earthy finish.

The Best Viognier 95 points, Double Gold medal was, surprisingly, from a noted Mexican producer. **L.A. Cetto 2020 Viognier, Valle de Guadalupe, Mexico, \$23.** The official SFIWC tasting note described the wine as:

Classic Viognier profile with distinctive white flower floral aromas followed by green and stone fruits. A notable, mouth coating palate weight leads to a long finish with lingering apple and dried apricot notes.

Other standout white wines included Best White Rhone Varietal, 98 points, Double Gold medal, **Bethel Road Winery 2019 CCOF Grenache Blanc, Templeton**

Gap, Paso Robles, California
Dragonfly Winery 2020

Three wines took top honors and also Best Blanc de Blanc

Vineyards 2020 Mét

Plateau, Georgia USA, \$36.



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Sparkling,

Mountain

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The tasting note described it as:

A distinctive yeasty aroma on the nose with green and stone fruit notes and a core of minerality with a bright brisk acidity.

The Best Prosecco, 95 points, Double Gold medal was the **La Marca NV Luminore Prosecco, DOC Veneto, Italy, \$33**. La Marca is America's best-known brand of Prosecco. The Luminore Prosecco is drawn from Conegliano-Valdobbiadene, the heart of Italy's Prosecco producing zone.

The tasting note described the wine as:

Very aromatic, floral, with distinct apple and pear aromas. Soft on the palate, with a smooth mousse leading to a long fruity finish.

The Best Ice Wine, 94 points, Double Gold medal came from Inniskillin 2019 Riesling Ice Wine, Niagara Peninsula, Canada, \$80. The category has long been dominated by Niagara Peninsula producers, chief among which is Inniskillin. The official tasting note described the wine as:

Rich, concentrated flavors of baked candied apple and golden raisin accompanied by intense floral aromas. A thick, dense wine with an incredibly long, sweet finish accompanied by a brisk, mouth cleansing acidity.

A complete listing of the 2021 SFIWC medal winners is available at the [San Francisco International Wine Competition](#) website.

Note that I am a judge f

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