

2022 Austin County Fair

Texas Non-Commercial Wine Show Rules

Sunday, October 16, 2022 – 1:00pm (Judging)

Austin County Fair Grounds (American Legion Hall, 988 E. Main, Bellville, TX)

Public Tasting and Winemakers Meet and Greet follows Judging until 6:00pm

The Wine Show is Produced and Coordinated by the Gulf Coast Winegrowers Association

SECTION I – GENERAL WINE SHOW RULES

1. An entrant may enter one or more entries in any of the eight wine categories. Qualified wines from 2022 and earlier vintages are eligible but earlier vintages (before 2022) MAY NOT be repeat entries.
2. Only non-commercial or amateur wine makers residing in the State of Texas may submit entries that must be made in the State of Texas. Judges and commercial wine producers and wine makers are ineligible.
3. An Entry Fee of \$10.00 is required PER ENTRY. The number of entries is unlimited. Entry Forms are available from Stacie Villarreal via stacie.villarreal@ag.tamu.edu and at the Austin County AgriLife Extension Office located at 800 East Wendt St., Bellville, between 8:30am-Noon and 1:00 - 4:00pm or from Paul Darst (Wine Show Chair) via pauldarst@darstranchvineyards.com Cash and Checks (made out to ACFA) are accepted. Credit Cards will only be accepted through the Austin County Fair office by calling Kim Quinney, (979-865-5995).
4. Each wine entered MUST be submitted in a minimum of two 750ML bottles. Foil, PVC or any other type of shrink capsules must be removed prior to submission.
5. Each bottle must be labeled with the Entrants name, Entry Class # and type of Wine, Variety (name(s) of grape, berry, or fruit) used, Style, and Vintage/year

6. ENTRY SUBMITAL LOCATIONS AND DEADLINES:

EARLY ENTRIES will be accepted from October 3rd – 7th between 8:30am-Noon and 1:00 - 4:00pm at the following locations:

- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension of Austin County, 800 East Wendt St., Bellville, TX 77418 (Attention Stacie Villarreal, 979-865-2072, stacie.villarreal@ag.tamu.edu)
- Darst Ranch Vineyards, 981 Travis Rd, Bellville, TX 77418 (Paul Darst, 832-250-3568, pauldarst@darstranchvineyards.com)

DAY OF SHOW ENTRIES will be received on the day of the Show, Sunday, October 16th between 10:00am and 12:15pm at the American Legion Hall, 988 E. Main St. (Austin County Fairgrounds near the HWY 529 Fair Entrance Gate).

NOTE: Fair admission and parking is FREE on the day of the Wine Show (October 16th).

7. If it is determined that an entry has been mis-classified, Show Officials and/or Judges have the prerogative to place it in a more appropriate classification.
8. Judging will begin promptly at 1:00pm. Once judging begins, no one is allowed in the judging area except personnel authorized by Wine Show Officials.
9. Competent and non-partial judges representing educators in the field of Enology and Viticulture, commercial wine makers and grape growers, industry related media, and other interested parties will be provided. By luck of the draw, Judges will be assigned to one of two panels. All judging will be scored by blind tastings. Each panel will judge as many as five entry classes
10. Judges will use a 25-point/five category system (five points per category) to award Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals in each of the entry classes they judge. If there is a tie, both entries will be awarded the appropriate medal.
11. Winners will be awarded medals for all Entry Classifications unless there is only one entry in a class. In the case of a single entry in a class, the entry will be judged but must receive a minimum number of points to qualify for an award. Point values below (multiplied by the number of Judges scoring the class) will be used as a guideline for any award:

Range of points for GOLD – 21 – 25

Range of points for SILVER – 18 – 20

Range of Points for BRONZE – 15 -17

12. AUSTIN COUNTY GRAND CHAMPION, OVERALL GRAND CHAMPION, and OVERALL RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION BELT BUCKLES:

- a. All entries, regardless of which county in the State of Texas it was produced and subject to receiving a qualified gold medal score are eligible for the Overall Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion belt buckle awards.

- i. Using only the highest rated Gold Medal winners selected from each of the two judges panels, judges from opposite panels will then score those selected Gold Medal wines from the other panel. The combined scores from the two panels will be used to award the Overall Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion

- b. Using the scoring system outlined above (Section 12 a, i) the highest scored wine produced in Austin County will be awarded The Austin County Grand Champion Belt Buckle.

13. After judging is completed, both entrants and the public will be invited for the awards ceremony and a tasting of all submitted wines.

Entrants may choose to bring additional bottles of their wine and stand by their entries to serve and discuss their wine.

14. All entries should be picked up by the entrant or their designee at the conclusion of the tasting if they desire to retain any of their remaining wine. Failure to pick up the entry will result in the sample becoming the property of the Gulf Coast Winegrowers Committee to distribute at their discretion.

SECTION II – WINE CLASSIFICATIONS

1. Red Wine – Dry	5 - Fruit / Berry
2. Red Wine – Sweet	6 – Dessert / Port / Sherry Style
3. White Wine – Dry	7 – Native/Mustang/Muscadine Grape
4. White Wine – Sweet	8 – Blush / Rose