



2013

Established in 2009 by the Minnesota Grape Growers Association, in conjunction with the Minnesota State Fair and the Minnesota Farm Wineries Association, the ICCWC was established to encourage greater exploration of winemaking styles and techniques using grape varieties that can survive cold climate conditions.

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International Cold Climate Wine Competition

While there are dozens of wine competitions around the United States, there were none devoted to the promotion of quality wines made exclusively from cold hardy grape cultivars. In response, the Minnesota Grape Growers Association and the University of Minnesota have joined in partnership to host the International Cold Climate Wine Competition in St. Paul, Minnesota. The ICCWC was established in 2009, in conjunction with the Minnesota State Fair, to encourage greater exploration of wine making styles and techniques using grape varieties that can survive cold climate conditions.

What kinds of wine can be entered in this competition?

Any commercial winemaker producing wine using cold hardy grape varieties generally found to be hardy without winter protection in USDA zone 4 may enter. There are 30 different competition categories, including Minnesota Hybrids, French & American Hybrids, Sparkling, Specialty & Fortified and Non-Grape. Only commercially available wines (minimum production of 20 cases) are eligible. The competition is eager to receive entries from countries outside the U.S. and Canada. Wine grapes varieties that may be entered include:

Alpenglow	Joffre	Prairie Star
Baltica	Kay Gray	Riparia (native grape)
Brianna	King of the North	Sabrevois
Castel 19637	L'Acadie Blanc	Sipaska
D M 8521-5	La Crescent	St. Croix
E.S. 6-16-30	LaCrosse	St. Pepin
E.S. 10-18-30	Leon Millot	Swenson White
Edelweiss	Louise Swenson	Troubador
Elvira	Luci Kuhlmann	Valiant
Frontenac	Marechal Foch	Vandal-Cliché
Frontenac blanc	Marquette	Ventura
Frontenac gris	Petite Amie	
GR7	Petite Pearl	

The 2012 competition included 335 wines from 57 commercial wineries in 12 states and Canada. Awards were based on blind tastings by 21 expert judges, who include wine writers, restaurateurs, retailers and wine educators. In addition to Double Gold, Gold, Silver and Bronze medals, the ICCWC awards three Best of Show wines (red, white, specialty/fortified) as well as the Minnesota Governor's Cup Award, given to the top wine made in Minnesota.

This year the Governor's Cup was awarded to Four Daughters Vineyard and Winery for their 2011 La Crescent. Four Daughters' La Crescent also won "Best of Show" for the top white wine. Other "Best of Show" awards went to the Shelburne Vineyard (Vermont) for its 2010 Marquette Reserve, as best red wine and to Danzinger Vineyards (Wisconsin) for its Midnight Voyage Dessert Red Wine, for best specialty/fortified wine.