



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **WINNERS OF EXPERIENCE ROSÉ: THE 2019 COMPETITION ANNOUNCED; BALLETO VINEYARDS TAKES TOP HONORS**

*Now in its 6th Year, the 2019 Competition Received a Record Number of Entrants;  
Experience Rosé Organizers Prepare for **The Great Rosé Infusion of Summer** in June 2019*

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA – (May 8, 2019)** – Debra Del Fiorentino, Founder of Wine Competitions Management & Productions, in conjunction with Craig Palmer and Allen Habel, co-founders of [Experience Rosé](#) (formerly Rosé Today), are pleased to announce the [results](#) from **Experience Rosé: The 2019 Competition**, held at [Soda Rock Winery](#) in Healdsburg, California on Wednesday, May 1. Directed by globally-renowned wine expert and educator Del Fiorentino, **Experience Rosé: The 2019 Competition** drew just under 400 entries of domestic and international rosé wines, making it the largest wine competition dedicated to Rosé in the United States. The public's first opportunity to sample some of these award-winning wines in one festival-setting will be on Saturday, June 22, at [The Great Rosé Infusion of Summer](#) event, to be held at Soda Rock Winery.

"Our judging is committed to the highest standards of competition," explains Debra Del Fiorentino, who attracts a world-class panel of judges for the Competition. "The Experience Rosé judging seeks the very best in dry, a little sweet and sparkling styles that pair quality winemaking with the passion for rosé and its infinite possibilities."

Experience Rosé is one of only a handful of U.S. competitions exclusively focused on identifying excellence in rosé wine, domestic and international, all styles. Due to the increased number of this year's entries, the competition is now considered the largest rosé competition being held in the U.S. "This put a real feather in our cap," states Del Fiorentino. "The art of creating great Rosé wines has fast-tracked within the industry as illustrated with more than 27% more entries than last year. We couldn't be more delighted."

The esteemed panel of judges awarded five Best of Show awards, nine Best of Class designations, 22 double gold and 61 gold medals.

Top honors and Best of Show went to the Balletto Vineyards 2018 Rosé of Pinot Noir, Russian River Valley, estate grown, bottled and produced. Described as a domestic dry rosé with tasting notes of cantaloupe, sun warmed strawberries, raspberries and rose petals, the wine garnered 94 points.

Other Best of Class winners include:

- Best of Show and Best of Class Domestic Dry: Balletto Vineyards, Rosé of Pinot Noir 2018
- Best of Class and Double Gold
  - Domestic Sparkling: J Vineyards Brut Rosé
  - Domestic Sweet: Jolee Wines, Rosé Jolee
  - International Dry: Le Grand Courtage, Très Chic Rosé
  - International Sparkling: Risata Wines, Sparkling Rosé
- Best of Class and Double Gold

- o Soda Rock Winery Rosé
- o Hungry Hawk Vineyards Rosé
- o Le Grand Noir Rosé
- o Balverne, Rosé of Pinot Noir Reserve
- Best Domestic Cider, Gold: Urban Tree Rosé

Results were announced at an intimate gathering held at Soda Rock Winery on Thursday, May 2, following the judging. About 10 wineries, all Competition gold-and-above medal winners, poured and convened with a select group of industry influencers, media, and event sponsors and producers.

To view a complete list of 2019 winners, visit <https://www.winecompetitions.com/experiencerosé> or <http://rosewinetoday.com/2019-competition/>.

Gold-and-above winners in the competition are invited to showcase their wines in [\*\*The Great Rosé Infusion of Summer\*\*](#), to be held Saturday, June 22 at Soda Rock Winery in Healdsburg.

The Soda Rock event begins at 11 a.m. with an extraordinary Experience exclusively for VIP guests, titled "Rosé Without Cliché." Thomas DeBiase (Idlewild Wines) will host a panel of distinctive winemakers pouring signature rosés that forever assert the commanding authenticity and captivating individuality rose' can bring. Winemakers pouring and presenting their wines include Jeff Runquist (Jeff Runquist Wines, Amador), Antoine Favero (Wilson Artisan Wines, Sonoma and Mendocino), and Rick Moshin (Moshin Vineyards, Sonoma).

During the public event, from noon to 4 p.m., guests can expect to taste more than two dozen different rosés, in spaciouly set-out themed tasting areas on the picturesque and historic grounds of Soda Rock Winery. Tasting areas are designed to illustrate how readily rosé pairs with so many different cuisines, and guest chefs will be on hand presenting delicious bites. French-trained chef Marc-Henri Jean-Baptiste (Mason Porcella) will serve elegant charcuterie offerings; Melissa Yanc, Healdsburg's wildly acclaimed artisan baker, brings a tantalizing array of her mouth-watering artisan breads from her Quail and Condor; and Brian Bank will be showcasing his popular new BBQ hot spot in Fairfax, Way Station. By popular demand, Steel Jam has been invited back to fill the event with the exuberance of steel drum.

"There is a burgeoning appetite for all things rosé," states Experience Rosé Founder and Co-Producer Craig Palmer. "Our goal is to showcase excellence, and the Competition sets that standard. This year we evaluated not only the best in rosé wines, but in rosé-infused spirits, beers and ciders. This is a first-of-its-kind idea for a public event."

Early bird tickets are available now at [experiencerosé.com](http://experiencerosé.com). VIP: \$125; General Admission: \$85; Designated Driver: \$45. Tickets for ***The Great Rosé Pairing for Summer*** can be purchased by visiting [www.experiencerosé.com](http://www.experiencerosé.com).

For information about other Experience Rosé event, please visit [www.experiencerosé.com](http://www.experiencerosé.com). Like Experience Rosé on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/experienceroséwine/>.

Experience Rosé is proud to thank its Presenting Sponsor, *Bank of Marin*, and Hosting Sponsors: *Soda Rock Winery*, *Jeff Runquist Wines*, *Spirited*, and *Wine Competitions Management*.

### **About Wine Competitions Management & Production (WCPM) and Libations Logistics**

Based in Santa Rosa, Calif., WCM&P is an independently owned and operated adult beverage competition company with a uniquely designed portfolio to appeal to a niche market based on its regional or otherwise defined style of judging. Its wine competitions include the prestigious world-renowned Sunset International Wine Competition, The Press Democrat North Coast Wine Challenge, Harvest Challenge, West Coast Wine Competition, International Eastern Wine

Competition, East Meets West, International Women's Wine Competition, and the Craft Distillers Spirits Competition. It also operates the Mendocino Cider Competition and manages Dan Berger's International Wine Competition. See website at [www.winecompetitions.com](http://www.winecompetitions.com).

### **About Soda Rock Winery**

Nestled in Sonoma County's scenic Alexander Valley, Soda Rock Winery offers visitors the opportunity to enjoy an eclectic mix of wine-country experiences. Sip a delicious array of wines with a focus on Bordeaux varietals. View the splendid surroundings and appreciate the historical buildings that have been beautifully restored using green building and recycling practices. Soda Rock is the original site of the Alexander Valley general store and post office, and was once the central hub of activity for the valley. Historic records provide evidence of the first bonded winery on this property in 1880. With a large line-up of Cabernet Sauvignons and Bordeaux varietals, Soda Rock wines are big and bold, just like its historic past.

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