



2011 National Tasting Project

Merlot – The Wine that Gets No Respect



The National Tasting Project gives chapter across the US the opportunity to sample the same group of wines in a blind tasting. This year 53 chapters, representing 1,145 tasters in 22 different states participated in the NTP. This represents the largest number of tasters and chapters participating in the event.

Each participating chapter selected 6 wines from a list of 15, representing 4 geographical areas – France, California, Washington State and Australia. The wines were tasted blind and scored on the AWS 20-point scale.

- The Washington State wines garnered the highest scores
- The Aussie wines were great values.
- The overall scores were very close, with 4 wines scoring 14.8-14.9 points and 5 wines scoring 14.5-14.6 points.
- The top-rated wines for all participants were: Columbia Crest H3, Ste. Michelle Indian Wells, Columbia Crest Grand Estates and Christian Moueix.
- The top-rated wines for the AWS Graduate Wine Judges were: Chateau Souverain, Ste. Michelle Indian Wells, Columbia Crest Grand Estates, Columbia Crest H3 and Frei Brothers.
- All of the wines scored in at least the AWS bronze medal range (13.0-14.9)
- The wine judges would have awarded silver medals to 6 of the wines.



The following table shows the average scores and standard deviation (Std. Dev.) for the participants and the graduate wine judges (WJ). Thanks to all the groups who participated and submitted results.

Wine No.	Wine	Region	Tasters	Avg. Cost	Avg. Score	Std. Dev.	WJ Score	WJ Std. Dev.
F1	2006 Chateau Pipeau	France	497	\$35	13.5	2.9	13.5	2.9
F2	2005 Christian Moueix	France	338	\$15	14.8	2.8	14.8	2.1
C1	2006 Saint Francis	California	704	\$18	14.3	2.8	13.9	2.5
C2	2006 Chateau Souverain	California	227	\$16	14.6	2.8	15.6	1.7
C3	2007 Frei Brothers	California	702	\$18	14.4	2.8	15.0	2.0
C4	2006 Robert Mondavi	California	547	\$16	14.5	2.8	14.7	2.1
C5	2007 Beringer Napa	California	198	\$16	13.7	3.1	14.8	1.4
W1	2008 Ch. Ste. Michelle Indian Wells	Washington	691	\$20	14.8	2.8	15.2	2.0
W2	2007 Columbia Crest Horse Heaven Hills	Washington	405	\$17	14.9	2.7	15.0	1.2
W3	2008 Hogue Genesis	Washington	372	\$17	14.8	2.7	14.9	0.9
W4	2007 Columbia Crest Grand Estates	Washington	641	\$14	14.5	2.7	15.1	2.0
W5	2007 Snoqualmie	Washington	119	\$13	14.1	2.5	13.5	1.4
A1	2008 Casella Yellowtail Reserve	Australia	707	\$10	14.6	2.5	15.0	1.5
A2	2008 Little Penguin	Australia	380	\$11	14.6	2.4	14.9	1.4

Respectfully submitted,
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American Wine Society

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	2006 Chateau Pipeau	2005 Christian Moueix	2006 St. Francis	2006 Chateau Souver- ain	2007 Frei Bro- thers	2006 Robert Mondavi	2007 Beringer Napa	2008 Ch. Ste. Michelle Indian Wells	2007 Columbia Crest H3	2006 Hogue Genesis	2007 Columbia Crest Grand Estates	2007 Snoqual- mie	2008 Casella Yellowtail Reserve	2008 Little Penguin
Baltimore-Towson, MD					13.0	12.9					12.8	14.1		14.1
Bill Tuller, SC	11.0		13.6		13.9			14.0			13.5		14.6	
Bucks County, PA	12.4		13.7		13.1			15.5		15.4			13.9	
Carroll County, MD			13.1	14.6		14.5			14.6		14.9			14.6
Cleveland, OH		12.9			13.4	15.2			15.2			14.1	14.8	
Clos Friends, SC		12.6			16.8	14.3			14.6		16.1		14.7	
Dayton, OH		10.7			12.9	13.6		14.4			14.8			13.9
Electric City, PA	13.3		13.8			13.9		14.4			15.5		15.0	
Frederick, MD		11.9	12.1		14.8				14.8	15.4			13.7	
Glacier Ridge, NY		12.8	14.9			13.2		12.8				13.5	12.9	
Hartford, CT	13.8		14.5			15.6		16.0			15.6		14.1	
Heritage Hunt, VA	10.2			13.4		13.6		13.3	14.3					15.0
Houston, TX	11.3		13.6				9.1	13.4		12.5			12.6	
Hudson, MA	13.0				14.8		14.1	14.0			14.2			14.2
Illinois Heartland, IL	13.2		14.8		14.5			15.1			15.4			13.3
Indian Valley, PA	13.6		16.0		14.3			12.7	14.7					13.5
Jean-Jacques Dufour, KY			16.4		18.2		15.6			16.5	13.7		16.4	
John Marshall, VA			14.9		14.6			15.7	14.9	14.2			14.4	
Keuka, NY	12.7		15.8	14.4				15.1				14.3	14.3	
Lancaster, PA			12.0	15.4		15.1			16.4		15.8			14.5
Las Vegas, NV		11.2			14.5	16.2		13.4	14.7					15.1
Laurel Highlands, PA			16.1	16.6		16.8				15.3	16.5			16.2
Lone Star, TX	11.6		14.9		15.8			14.0			15.8		14.3	
Maitland, FL	12.8		16.5		14.8					14.9	16.7		14.8	
Mesilla Valley, NM		12.9	16.6		13.3			16.4			13.8		15.2	
Metro Detroit, MI		12.8			13.6		14.1			15.2	14.2			13.9
Mohawk Valley, NY		15.2		14.7	14.5					15.6	15.1		17.0	
Mt. Nittany, PA	13.2		14.3		16.8			15.8		16.4			15.9	
New Haven, CT		14.6			15.5		13.6	14.7			13.6	14.3		15.0
Nittany Valley, PA			17.8	16.5		16.3				16.6	16.0			17.0
No. Neck Uncorked, PA	12.4		14.0			11.9				13.4	13.6		13.2	
North Alabama, AL		13.3			14.1		14.2	16.0		14.7				15.7
Northampton, PA		14.7	14.5		14.0			16.2			15.7		14.8	
Ocean Isle, NC		12.0	14.4		12.1			15.7			14.7			13.5
Omaha, NE					15.0	16.9		14.8	15.9				17.3	
Perkiomen Valley, PA	13.2		15.0		14.3			15.9	17.1					15.9
Philadelphia, PA	11.6		13.6		16.3					14.8	15.3		13.8	
Phoenix, AZ	13.7		16.1				13.6		15.4	15.0			15.8	
Pioneer Valley, MA		13.0	14.5		11.0			14.4			14.8		14.5	
Pittsburgh, PA					14.2	15.1		16.7		13.6			14.2	
Pittsburgh East, PA			13.5		12.6	15.3					12.7		14.0	
Rhode Island, RI	14.0				14.5		14.0	15.1			13.8			14.5
Rochester, NY	12.6				15.0		14.8	13.8			14.0		14.7	
Space Coast, FL	14.2		13.2			15.4		17.1			13.9		15.6	
Suffolk, NY		12.5	13.9	14.1				14.9	15.4				13.9	
Syracuse, NY			14.2			12.8		14.7			14.2			
Tellico/E. Tenn., TN		13.4			14.9	14.9		16.7	15.4					14.9
Tippie Tasters, TN		13.5		14.0	14.4				14.7		13.6		13.3	
Triangle, NC	11.5				15.1	14.9		15.6	14.1				14.8	
White Clay, PA	12.6		12.8	13.7						13.8	14.9		15.4	
Winston-Salem, NC	9.8		12.5			14.9		14.3	14.1				13.5	
York, PA	11.5		12.4		15.9			10.6	11.5					12.4
Average Score	13.5	14.8	14.3	14.6	14.4	14.5	13.7	14.8	14.9	14.8	14.5	14.1	14.6	14.6
Wine Judge Average	13.5	14.8	13.9	15.6	15.0	14.7	14.8	15.2	15.0	14.9	15.1	13.5	15.0	14.9
Average Price	\$35	\$15	\$18	\$16	\$18	\$16	\$16	\$20	\$17	\$17	\$14	\$13	\$10	\$11