



2016 National Tasting Project

The National Tasting Project (NTP) gives AWS chapters across the US the opportunity to sample the same group of wines in a blind tasting in an effort to calibrate our palates. This year 48 chapters, representing 1063 tasters across the country participated in the NTP. This year saw a decrease in the number participating by 6 chapters and 97 members, a small number considering the added expense of the wines, shipping and extra effort to obtain the wines.

Each participating chapter selected from Tier One, or Tier Two, each with 8 wines.

The wines were tasted blind and scored on the AWS 20-point scale. The results show that:

- The top three favorite wines were Michael-David Earthquake Petit Sirah (tier 1) and a tie for Guyomar Petit Sirah and Summerwood Grenache (tier 2).
- The difference between the judges and non-judges scores for first place were only .1 and .5 respectively.
- Based on overall averages the wines scored 3 Gold, 12 Silver and 1 Bronze. Every wine scored a medal.
- The original NTP committee likewise awarded metals to all the wines when selected for this project.
- This effectively concludes a successful calibration amongst our members, having a less than 1 point spread in the group averages.

There were very few reported faulty wines, and if the wineries were told of the faults, they replaced the bottles. During the pre-evaluation of the wines by the NTP team, all the wines selected for the tasting did not have any faults and all were bronze or higher ranked (top scores at that tasting: Michael-David, Derby, Summerwood and both Kukkula wines).

The following table shows the average scores for the participants and the graduate wine judges. The last 2 columns show the percentage of the chapters that tasted a particular wine and rated them as the favorite and the wines in the top 3. First and Second place winners are highlighted.

The Top Wines (in pink) are only .1 and .5 difference between the wine judge scores and average group scores. All wines scored a bronze or higher. Also of note is the fact all 16 wines ranked in the top 3 wines (on average) amongst the participating chapters. Overall the wines were very well received and the calibration was a success.

Thank you to all the groups who participated and submitted results.

No.	Wine	Taste rs	Average Cost	Average Score	Wine Judge Average Score	Favorite Wine (percent of chapters)	In Top 3 Wines (percent of chapters)
T1W	Kita "t'aya" White Blend 2014	711	\$22	14.3	15.6	0%	7%
T1W	Sculpterra 'Heroe' Viognier 2014	640	\$22	15.7	17.2	4%	50%
T1R1	Anglim Cerise Blend 2012	703	\$28	15.0	15.7	3%	24%
T1R2	Thirty-Seven Grenache 2013	568	\$27	15.5	14.9	5%	41%
T1R3	Horton 'Cotes d'Orange' Blend 2014	753	\$17	14.5	15.5	0%	4%
T1R4	Derby Fifteen Red 2010	723	\$28	16.2	16.4	31%	86%
T1R5	Tablas Creek Patelin de Tablas 2013	781	\$20	14.6	15.5	0%	10%
T1R6	Michael-David 'Earthquake' Petit Syrah 2013	630	\$27	16.8	17.3	63%	92%
T2W	Cass Marsanne 2014	326	\$27	15.0	16.2	0%	6%
T2W	Cass 'Rockin One' White Blend 2013	447	\$32	14.9	15.9	0%	10%
T2R1	Kukkula 'Aatto' Cunoise Blend 2013	382	\$42	15.2	15.7	5%	30%
T2R2	Pax Mahle 'Castelli-Knight Ranch' Syrah 2011	421	\$65	15.2	15.9	10%	29%
T2R3	Bonny Doon 'Le Cigare Volant' 2011	383	\$44	15.6	16.4	0%	11%
T2R4	Kukkula 'Pas de Deux' Grenache Blend 2012	359	\$46	15.7	16.1	11%	72%
T2R5	Summerwood Grenache Blend 2013	435	\$44	16.4	16.3	45%	80%
T2R6	Guyomar 'Monsignor' Petit Sirah Blend 2012	345	\$54	16.6	16.5	39%	89%