



2020 NATIONAL TASTING PROJECT SUMMARY

The National Tasting Project (NTP) gives AWS chapters across the US the opportunity to sample the same group of wines in a blind tasting as a means of calibrating our palates. This year the Covid19 Pandemic forced many to do virtual tastings, thus the decline in participants. For 2020, 38 chapters, representing 626 tasters across the country, participated in the NTP. The wines overall were very well received.

Each participating chapter selected from 12 wines, tasting as many as they wish from the selection. The wines were tasted blind and scored on the AWS 20-point scale. The results show that:

- The top scoring wines were Spring Valley Uriah and CSM Cold Creek Cabernet Sauvignon. They were the most expensive wines and were tasted by more than half of the participating chapters.
- There was a tie for third with the H3 Merlot and CSM Cabernet Sauvignon.
- There were no Gold Medals this year, but all the wines were awarded Silver Medals.
- The calibration spread was very successful this year, ranging from zero to the largest spread of only .5 difference between the certified judges and members scores.
- This effectively concludes a successful calibration amongst our members, having the largest spread between the judges and the group average of only .5 or less for all the wines.

The following table shows the average scores for the participants and the graduate wine judges.

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

No.	Wine	Tasters	Cost	Overall Average Score	Wine Judge Average Score	In Top 3 Wines (percent of chapters)	Rank Order Top Wines
1	NV Domaine St. Michelle Brut	458	\$13	15.3	15.3	23%	9
2	2018 Eroica Riesling	524	20	15.5	15.4	24%	6 tie
3	2015 H3 Chardonnay	363	15	15.0	15.3	13%	10
4	2018 Seven Falls Cellars Merlot	215	16	15.3	15.5	47%	7
5	2016 CSM Indian Wells Merlot	458	17	15.3	15.4	23%	8
6	2016 H3 Merlot	524	14	15.6	16.0	36%	3 tie
7	2016/17 Intrinsic Red Blend	523	20	15.3	15.6	24%	6 tie
8	2017 CSM Cabernet Sauvignon	334	16	15.6	16.0	35%	3 tie
9	2017 Borne of Fire Cab. Sauvignon	412	22	15.5	15.8	40%	4
10	2015 CSM Canoe Ridge Cab. Sauv.	423	28	15.5	15.5	38%	5
11	2014/15 CSM Cold Creek Cab. Sauv.	448	29	16.4	15.9	78%	2
12	2014/15 Spring Valley Uriah Blend	325	43	16.3	16.5	78%	1