

Wine Judges of Canada 2017 Club Judging Announcement

In preparation for the **2017 AWO Provincial Competition**, Wine Judges of Canada (**WJC**) is again offering to judge your AWO Club Competition. Clubs using WJC judges are eligible to enter more than one wine per class to the Ontario finals, as the WJC judge is authorised to send forward all Gold & Silver medal wines made by different winemakers. In addition, Club members who do not win any Gold or Silver medals are eligible to enter ONE Bronze medal wine of their choice to the Provincial competition.

DEADLINE FOR YOUR REQUEST FOR JUDGES IS NO LATER THAN JANUARY 25!

Judges are scheduled for Club Competitions on a FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED basis. *If you know the date & your preferred judges but not the location yet, please send the form in NOW & provide the rest of the data as soon as it's available.* Each judge can assess up to 40 wines in a competition. Two or more judges will be required for more entries. WJC strongly suggests that a **minimum of 2 judges** be used even if the anticipated number of entries is low. Clubs may also request double or triple judgments for an additional fee. Clubs are encouraged to select the same date each year for future competitions as well (eg: first Sat in March). **LAST DATE FOR JUDGING IS SUNDAY MARCH 26!**

WJC judges are not permitted to judge their own club under any circumstances. Please indicate all acceptable judges in order of preference on the request form. Any judge that you do not want assigned to your club should be marked with an "X". Any unmarked judges will be assigned after the list of preferred judges has been exhausted. There will be no phone calls to determine further ranking. This procedure has been put in place to speed up the delivery of the judging assignments to the clubs.

NOTE: Class Descriptions are available on the AWO website at www.makewine.com under Competitions. Please be familiar with these descriptions to avoid wines being entered in the wrong classes! To avoid wines being disqualified as faulted, open & sample your entries first.

Here is a list of important 2017 dates:

January 25	Deadline for Clubs to submit their judging requests to the Judging Co-ordinator. Please ensure that every detail is provided with your request (including the address, phone #, email and directions to the judging location).
January 26	FIRST day for AWO club competitions
March 10-17	Spring Break
March 26	FINAL day for AWO club competitions
April 14-17	Easter Weekend
April 9	Provincial Competition entry registration forms and fees must be in to the Chief Steward
May 5-7	Ontario Competition at Brock
June 3-4	2017 Festival, Medal Presentations & Annual General Meeting (location TBA)

Club Competitions – Fees and Reimbursement

Fees:

Fees last year have been slightly increased after many years. The fee structure outlined below is for AWO registered Clubs and their fully paid up AWO members & Members at Large only. Any other club or individual wishing to have products judged by the WJC should contact Chief Steward Bob Stalder (stalderbob@gmail.com).

The 2017 AWO Club judging fee is **\$5.00** per bottle per judge (therefore a double-judged bottle is \$10.00). The maximum number of bottles per judge is 40. For every bottle **over** the 40 bottle per judge limit, the judging fee is \$7.00 per bottle per judge. The total minimum charge is \$40.00.

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A mileage fee of **\$0.30 per kilometer** based on the **round trip** distance per judge will also be charged. There will not be any charge for distances under 20 km. The judges will provide their mileage to the Judging Host or Club Rep on arrival. Car-pooling will be encouraged to reduce costs wherever possible. Most Judges are limited to travel within a 200 km radius of their home so you should try to use Judges from your area of the Province. If you request a Judge to travel more than 250 km one-way, your club will be responsible to provide overnight accommodation.

Reimbursement:

The fees from club competitions are paid to Wine Judges of Canada – not to the Judges or AWO. **The Judges themselves receive no compensation other than mileage for giving up a day in their own busy schedules to help your club send your best wines forward, so a small token of your appreciation is always welcome.** The fees collected are used to fund the expenses associated with the Ontario competition, including accommodations & consumable supplies for judging over 800 entries, the purchase of medals and awards, and ongoing training of Judges.

Judge Duties on Competition Day:

WJC will designate one of the Judges at any club competition as “Head Judge” for that Club Competition. The duties performed by the Head Judge for your Club Competition will be to:

- ensure an updated list of competition class descriptions is on hand
- ensure all forms and wines to be judged are properly listed and signed by Judges prior to judging
- ensure that club members and Judges understand which classes will be double or triple-judged
- confirm the total fee to be paid and collect that fee from the Club on behalf of WJC
- sign Entry Certificates listing ALL Golds & Silvers eligible to go on to Ontario

Forms and fee payment for a Club Competition are to be completed on Competition Day prior to judging starting. A cheque made payable to the “Wine Judges of Canada” covering these fees must be provided directly to the Head Judge.

The data on the entries going forward to the AWO Provincial Competition is also required ASAP. Fees and forms for the Provincial Competition should be completed and submitted within a few days of the Club Competition. The deadline is April 9 for the Chief Steward Bob Stalder to have received everything.

Cheers & Good Luck!

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