

How long do I have to enter my wines?

Online entries will remain open until February 5, 2024. Our "early bird" deadline is January 15. The entry fee will increase to \$75 after January 15.

Who are the judges that will be evaluating the wines?

We are proud to be hosting a number of qualified professionals to evaluate the Stampede Cellar Showdown entries. Several Alberta buyers from both the retail and restaurant industries will sit on panels during the competition alongside notable wine writers. Most of our officials are accredited Wine & Spirit Education Trust Judges including both Master of Wine and Certified international Judges. Judges will be announced soon!

Do the wines have to be available through Connect Logistics? Do they have to have an agent?

The wines must be listed in Alberta and available both at retail and on premise.

Stampede Cellar Uncorked: What is this event and which wines will be featured?

On June 22, 2024 the Calgary Stampede looks forward to celebrating the successful wines from our first wine competition while about 700 guests enjoy dishes prepared by local restaurants. All of the wines that earn top awards from the Stampede Cellar Showdown will be poured, in addition to some of our other Double Gold and Gold medal winners. Class Champions and Canadian Class Champions will also be poured to maximize the offering of wines from our competition to the Uncorked event guests.

Stampede Cellar Uncorked will be one of the very first public events to take place in the newly-expanded BMO Centre on Stampede Park. Representatives from agencies or wineries are welcome to pour their own winning wines and interact with guests. If a representative cannot attend, the wine will be served by volunteer sommeliers.

Will the restaurants participating in the Uncorked event feature wines from the Stampede Cellar Showdown?

Chefs representing the various restaurants competing at Stampede Cellar Uncorked will be introduced to the winning wines prior to the event. Wine and food will be served independently but enjoyed together at Uncorked. There is tremendous opportunity for relationships to be built between winning wines and local restaurants from their shared participation in Uncorked. We encourage you to work with the restaurants to showcase your award winners.

Where will the winning wines be poured during the Calgary Stampede?

The winning wines will be showcased throughout Stampede Park during the ten-day festival in July 5-14, 2024 and at events on Stampede Park throughout the year, based on price point and availability. At Stampede time, venues include ranahans, Lazy S, Bar 1912, Western Oasis, and the new Stampede Cellar outdoor Wine Garden. A Champions Reserve Wine List will be provided to all groups booking events at Stampede Park year-round.

Who buys the wine for the Stampede Cellar outdoor wine garden at the 2024 Calgary Stampede?

The wines for the wine garden will all be purchased by the Calgary Stampede. Stampede guests who opt to enter the wine garden will pay for the wine by the glass or by the bottle. Approximately 1.4 million people visited the Calgary Stampede in 2023. In 2024, the new Stampede Cellar wine garden will be located in the heart of Stampede Park amongst our most popular attractions.

Who decides which wines will be served at which venues?

All wine listing decisions are made by the Calgary Stampede Food & Beverage team.

What would be considered a sufficient inventory for an agent to have on hand to take advantage of featured at the Calgary stampede and year-round?

Once the winners are identified agents will be contacted to determine what quantities can be provided. This will help the Stampede Food & Beverage team determine where the wine can be offered. For example – some high-end wines may be available in limited quantities so may best be offered only in ranches.

Will a Limited Time Offer (LTO) be required of each agent for the wines that win and become a Calgary Stampede featured wine?

No LTO's will be required for inclusion on Stampede-time and year-round wine lists.

Why should I enter smaller production, premium wines?

Wines available in limited quantities can still be listed in the more exclusive Stampede venues where high volumes of inventory will not be needed.

For the wine competition, how is a wine "classed" that has a majority of one grape but contains others and there is no "class" for that one grape in the handbook? Where will this be placed in the blind tasting?

If a wine is a blend but has a substantial amount of one grape variety it may end up being tasted against wines that are closer to 100% of that varietal. There are a few classes that cover off various blends that will capture most non-varietal wines.

Will there be classes in the competition for low alcohol or non-alcoholic wines?

Yes - non-alcoholic wines and wines with low alcohol percentages are welcome to enter the Stampede Cellar Showdown to be judged on their own merit.

What is the "exclusive marketing package" discussed on page 3 in the Competition Handbook?

The Calgary Stampede will make downloadable promotional items like stickers and neck tags available to all top award recipients and medal winners. These assets can be used to help publicize the winners in other venues like retail stores and restaurants. This service is being offered free of charge in 2024. The winning wine companies will be responsible for printing their promotional items.

How are the wines judged relative to price points?

The wines are grouped into price ranges and tasted by price range within each class. Price grouping will depend on the number of wines submitted in each price point. Wines with a wholesale price of less than \$15/bottle may be considered for the Top Value Wine award.

Are you allowed to drop off wine directly at the Calgary Stampede?

Yes – entries of wine can be shipped to the BMO Centre by following the instructions provided by the wine competition organizers OR wine can be delivered directly to the Agriculture Building on Stampede Park within regular business hours.

Having trouble with Enofile or need to make a change to your previously submitted entry?

Please call Jayden at 403-261-0222 or email wine@calgarystampede.com if you have questions or concerns about our online entry system.

