

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY
USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT
POLICY

Voluntary Public

Date: 2/2/2012

GAIN Report Number: EZ1201

Czech Republic

Post: Prague

California Wines Score High Again in Prague's Annual Competition

Report Categories:

Wine

Approved By:

Michael Henney

Prepared By:

Jana Mikulasova

Report Highlights:

Czech wine connoisseurs reaffirmed their growing awareness of the breath of quality among Californian wines. In 2011, the 5th Annual Prague Wine Trophy ended with California wines having received 19 out of 316 total medals awarded across multiple classes. Two importers of Californian wines scored in the top 10 for number of medals issued in the imported wine class.

General Information:

The 2011 Prague Wine Trophy competition, based on blind tasting evaluation conducted throughout the year by a jury of more than 50 certified experts, involved 1,081 wine registrants. Of these registrants, 45 percent were of domestic origin and 55 percent were imported wines. Medals were awarded to 39 wineries and to 34 importers. Californian wines registered by a few importers garnered 19 out of the total 316 medals awarded. No other new world wines gained so much recognition. In the number-of-medals-received category two importers of Californian wines scored in the top 10, with one landing in the top 5.

The Prague Wine Champion award is a special award granted to wines which gain the highest number of evaluation points over the year. Californian wines from the Francis Ford Coppola Winery gained 3 out of 30 awarded in their categories, which was the highest total number obtained among the imported category.

Other successful Californian wineries, whose wines garnered Prague Gold medals include: Kendall-Jackson Winery, La Crema Winery, and Robert Mondavi. All four wineries participated in wine promotions conducted by the Wine Institute of California and the Office of Agricultural Affairs, U.S. Embassy-Prague.

The Prague Wine Trophy is the largest wine competition in the Czech Republic. The VINO magazine organizes this event, recognized by both the European Union and the Ministry of Agriculture as one of the Czech Republic's official wine competitions.