

15 Wines You Must Try at the North Coast Wine & Food Festival

by SARAH STIERCH

We love any excuse to celebrate the food and wine bounty of the North Coast region, and on Saturday, June 9, we'll do just that at *The Press Democrat*'s North Coast Wine & Food Festival at SOMO Village in Rohnert Park. Over 60 award-winning wineries, pouring 90 Gold Medal wines, and 20 acclaimed chefs, serving up delicious bites, will be the stars of the show.

It's a must-attend event for any wine lover seeking to discover the best wines from Sonoma, Napa, Lake, Marin, Solano and Mendocino counties. It can also be a bit overwhelming – with so many wines to try in one afternoon, where do you begin? To help guide your palate, below are 17 award-winning wines you must try at the North Coast Wine & Food Festival. (As always, if you're planning on drinking alcohol, make sure you have a designated driver or book a taxi/Uber/Lyft).

PINOTPHILE PICKS

DeLoach Vineyards 2015 Marin County Pinot Noir

Marin County has grapes? Yes, they do! DeLoach won "Best of Marin County" with their single vineyard designate pinot noir. This pinot has rich notes that represented the varietal well, according to judges, including a "Christmas type spice" that warmed their souls enough to earn this wine an award.

BOLD REDS

Buena Vista Winery 2016 The Sheriff of Buena Vista, Sonoma County

With its signature gold sheriff badge label, which serves as a tribute to one of California's first sheriffs and the father of the California wine industry, Agoston Haraszthy, this bottle stands out on even the busiest of party tables. The judges agreed, saying it "turns heads." A gold medal winner, this wine is a big blend of bordeaux varietals (and a touch of grenache and mission grape!), the only thing missing is a juicy steak.