

# The Press Democrat

## Winners of the 2018 North Coast Wine Challenge announced

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Kokomo Wines of the Dry Creek Valley, a grower-winemaker partnership, took home the top prize in the 2018 North Coast Wine Challenge for its Kokomo 2016 Pinot Noir Gopher Hills Block Peters Vineyard Sonoma Coast, scoring the highest points ever awarded in this contest: 100 out of 100.

Already showing well as Best Pinot, the vibrant wine entered the final round Thursday, April 12, at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds with 17 other red wines and easily captured Best Red Wine. It then received 70 percent of the judges' votes to win Best of the Best award over four other wines: the Best of Show White, Sparkling, Rosé and Dessert wines.

"The wine was seamless and achieved our first 100-point score," said Chief Judge Daryl Groom, who coordinated the contest presented by The Press Democrat. "It was clearly a delicious, well-made, high-quality wine."

The pinot noir grapes were planted in 1982 by Kokomo owner and grape grower Randy Peters, who only had access to two clones at the time, the Pommard and the Waldenswil. Kokomo owner and winemaker Erik Miller, who only makes wine from grapes grown by Peters, said the two-man team works together to pick the single-vineyard grapes multiple times, in order to blend different ripeness levels.

Best of Marin County went to the DeLoach Vineyards 2015 Pinot Noir Marin County. The winery, which is part of the Boisset Collection, sources grapes from two vineyards bordering the Petaluma Gap. The wine earned 91 points, and the judges praised its "good varietal character" and "Christmas-type spice notes."

### North Coast Wine Challenge winners

**Best of the Best:** Kokomo 2016 Pinot Noir Gopher Hills Block Peters Vineyard Sonoma Coast

**Best of Show Red:** Kokomo 2016 Pinot Noir Gopher Hills Block Peters Vineyard Sonoma Coast

**Best of Sonoma County:** Kokomo 2016 Pinot Noir Gopher Hills Block Peters Vineyard Sonoma Coast

**Best of Show White:** J. Rickards Winery 2017 Sauvignon Blanc Croft Vineyard Alexander Valley

**Best of Show Rose:** Rodney Strong Vineyards 2017 Rosé of Pinot Noir Russian River Valley

**Best of Show Sparkling:** Domaine Carneros 2013 Brut

**Best of Show Dessert Wine:** Sonoma Cutrer Vineyards 2015 Late Harvest Chardonnay

**Best of Lake County:** Cache Creek Vineyards 2014 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon Lake County

**Best of Marin County:** DeLoach Vineyards 2015 Pinot Noir Marin County

**Best of Mendocino:** Soda Rock 2016 Chardonnay Mendocino

**Best of Napa County:** Mudita 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon Circle S Ranch Atlas Peak Napa

**Best of Sonoma County:** Kokomo 2016 Pinot Noir Gopher Hill Block Peters Vineyard Sonoma Coast