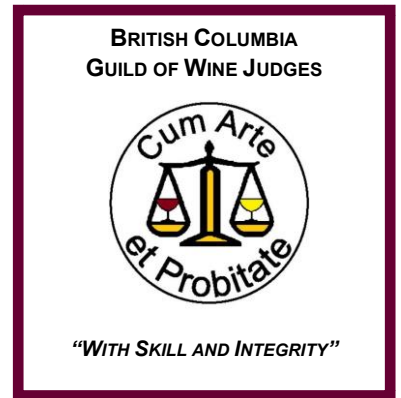


British Columbia Guild of Wine Judges Monthly Training Program



Comparative Judging - Rev 2

While comparative judging is useful for trainees during monthly maintenance/training sessions, it is strongly discouraged for qualified judges. Comparative judging is when other wines are compared to a previously scored wine. For example a taster is deemed to be 17 points by the qualified Judges and the other wines in the flight are compared to this to see if they are better or worse to give trainees a benchmark to develop their abilities to recognize a Gold, Silver, Bronze, or no medal wine. Qualified judges should already have developed this skill and this method does not work in a real wine competition because no one is going to set a standard for you.

That said, it has been observed that qualified judges still use this method in competitions when they really shouldn't be. It has been observed in competitions that judges will say "well we gave this other wine an 18 and this one isn't quite as good so it can't be a Gold". Don't fall into this trap. This leads to a Gold medal wine being identified and scored as an 18 for the first wine and all other wines are then scored less than that even though some of them really are Gold medal wines of slightly lesser quality. As a guild we are very good at recognizing and giving varied scores in the Silver and Bronze medal range, but there is a reluctance to give that same spread of scores within the Gold Medal range. A Gold medal has a 2 point spread but it is rare for a Judge to move beyond the 18 point scores. This leads to wines that should have received a Gold medal, being awarded a high Silver medal.

This will take time to overcome and it is recommended that during competitions, judges base their medals more on the quality of the wine. If you think it is a Gold, give it a Gold. Once the judging of the flight is finished go back to the Gold medal wines and decide which is "Best in Flight" and adjust the score of the best one higher. Do NOT ever reduce the score of any wine once you have finished judging. When in doubt, give the competitor the higher medal and try to move out of your comfort zone.