

## Padua 2017 Abstract Submission

**Title**

2008 Revisited

**I want to submit an abstract for:**

Conference Presentation

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**Keywords**

Not specified

**Research Question**

Not specified

**Methods**

Not specified

**Results**

Not specified

**Abstract**

An assessment of the quality of wine judges and wine competitions since the publication of "An examination of Judge Reliability at a Major U.S. Wine Competition," which appeared in the 2008 publication of the Journal of Wine Economics.

In 2008, this author published the first of several papers regarding the reliability of wine judges and wine competitions. The basic question was, why do wines entered in multiple competitions receive varying awards? The principal result of that paper concluded that wine judges are often inconsistent in their assessment of wine quality, and that this was the likely cause of wines winning inconsistent medals in competitions.

Now, 8 years later, perhaps it is time to review the original conclusions in light of the additional competitions held from 2009 through 2012. All together, we report on the reliability of some 170 wine judges who participated in California's annual State Fair commercial wine competition from 2005 through 2012. We find subsequent data support the original conclusions. We establish criteria for differentiating between good, acceptable and poor levels of consistency. Based on these criteria less than 6% of the wine judges yielded an acceptable rating. For those judges who have participated in more than 3 competitions, about 80 % have judged the same wine to be poorer than bronze to gold or better. When judges discuss their scores before delivering a final mark, we find that the judges tend to increase their own score, often significantly.