An Examination of Judge Reliability at a major U.S. Wine Competition
Part 1. Experimental Design, Implementation Details and Interpretation of
Results

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Abstract
An experimental design employing replicate sampling to evaluate the integrity of wine
competitions is discussed to answer the question, "why do wines win gold medals at
some competitions and fail to place in others?" As well as standard statistical measures,
an inconsistency-index is proposed to isolate a particular judge's role in panel
incoherence. Analysis-of-variance methods are described and interpreted. Examples of
actual judge scores are presented.