2008 Revisited

I want to submit an abstract for:
Conference Presentation

Corresponding Author
Robert Hodgson

E-Mail
bob@fieldbrookwinery.com

Affiliation
Professor Emeritus, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA

Keywords
Not specified

Research Question
Not specified

Methods
Not specified

Results
Not specified

Abstract

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.