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DAILY DISH

THE INSIDE SCOOP ON FOOD IN LOS ANGELES

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What wines do oysters like best?



Let's face it, oysters don't like exciting wines. Well, if you want to be literal, oysters probably don't like wine at all. But oyster lovers do, and so for the last 15 years, food marketing genius [Jon Rowley](#) (he basically invented [Copper River salmon](#)) has gathered food and wine geeks in Seattle, San Francisco and Los Angeles for the [Pacific Coast Oyster Wine Competition](#), a marathon of slurping and sipping, to try to determine which wine accompanies the oyster best.

It's a great competition to judge -- what's not to like: sitting in the cool confines of the Water Grill while they bring you 20 wines (an earlier version of this post mistakenly said 36 wines) and as many oysters as you want? And that may be part of the reason why the winning wines tend to be ones that are more typically considered "[Miss Congeniality](#)" than "[Miss America](#)." The winners tend to come from the more mild-mannered grapes -- Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Gris, particularly. What's more, they tend to be made by the kinds of wineries that are known more for good value than for blue ribbons.

That was true again this year, even though there were a slew of new faces in the winners' lineup.

All of the top 10 finishers were either Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Gris (or Pinot Grigio) or blends thereof. And many of the usual suspects did well again -- [Chateau Ste. Michelle](#), [Robledo Family Winery](#) and [Kenwood Vineyards](#) have all won multiple times in the past. But there were some new kids too: [Airfield Estates](#), [Cedargreen Cellars](#), [Covey Run](#) and [Hogue Cellars](#) out of Washington, [Anne Amie Vineyards](#) and [Sweet Cheeks Winery](#) from Oregon as well as California's [Rutherford Ranch](#).

My palate tends to be, er, quirky and though I liked the Airfield Estates, Chateau Ste. Michelle and Anne Amie, I was particularly taken with the Sauvignon Blancs from [Freemark Abbey Winery](#), [Kunde Family Estates](#) and [Simi Winery](#) as well. Though after six dozen oysters, you probably should take that for what it's worth.

-- Russ Parsons

Photo credit: Genaro Molina / Los Angeles Times

03:25 PM, Apr 28 2009 in [Contests & Competitions](#) , [Oysters](#) , [Russ Parsons](#) , [Seafood](#) , [Taste Test](#) , [Wine](#) | [Permalink](#)

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