



**MEDIA CONTACT**

Jennifer Castleberry

916-496-7323

[jlcastleberry@calexpo.com](mailto:jlcastleberry@calexpo.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 24, 2015

**CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR NAMES CHIEF JUDGE FOR 2015  
CALIFORNIA COMMERCIAL WINE COMPETITION**

Mark Chandler of Lodi, CA has been named the Chief Wine Judge for the California State Fair Commercial Wine Competition. The State Fair Competition is the oldest wine competition in the State, dating back to the Gold Rush. It is also one of the most prominent and prestigious wine competitions in the Country known for its integrity, insistence on excellence, fairness and professionalism.

Chandler's more than 30 years of wine industry management and communications experience, including 20 years as Executive Director of the Lodi Winegrape Commission, and CEO of the national association of American wineries made him the top candidate to take on the role of Chief Judge. Chandler is a seventh generation California agriculturalist and Lodi vineyard owner.

"For many years the California State Fair has been among my favorite venues to judge. I am excited to take a leadership role in this venerable institution which benefits wineries and consumers alike," said Chandler.

The Chief Judge is responsible for annually reviewing and recommending changes to the competition, as well as selecting the final list of judges and alternates. Chandler will preside

over the judging during the three-day competition that will take place June 3-5, 2015. He is in charge of flighting the wines and determining the judging panels. The entry deadline for California wine makers is May 1, 2015 and competition handbooks can be found at [CAStateFair.org](http://CAStateFair.org).

“We are thrilled to have someone with Mark’s esteemed experience to help further expand the State Fair’s Wine Competition. As the oldest professional wine competition in America, we are confident that Mark’s leadership will continue the tradition of recognizing and celebrating the best wines of California,” said Rick Pickering, CEO of the California State Fair.

The 2014 California State Fair’s Commercial Wine Competition drew more than 2,800 entries from 746 winery brands. Fifty-five double gold awards and 214 gold awards were presented. Unique to the California State Fair’s competition is the judging by California wine region which provides consumers and professionals a look at the diverse and exceptional wines from around the State.

#### **About the California State Fair**

For more than 160 years, the California State Fair has showcased the best of the Golden State. During the 2014 State Fair more than 750,000 people experienced the best and made memories that will last a lifetime. Initiated by Governor Pat Brown and opened by Governor Ronald Reagan in 1968 the current Cal Expo facilities were dedicated as a place to celebrate California’s achievement, preserve a slice of Americana, and provide a window into the future.

###

CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR • 1600 EXPOSITION BLVD, SACRAMENTO, CA 95815 • (916) 263-FAIR  
(877) CAL-EXPO • [INFO@CALEXPO.COM](mailto:INFO@CALEXPO.COM)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#) | [view email in browser](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)