Foothill wines score at Calif. State Fair

By Chris Macia, Sacramento Bee

The sheer amount of sipping makes it look like a bacchanal of the highest order. We're talking 2,854 wines from from than 750 California producers, a veritable ocean of fermented grape juice.

But for the 55 judges at the 2016 California State Fair Commercial Wine Competition, evaluating all these wines isn't an excuse to get loose, but a serious exercise in wine sensory analysis.

Many local wines fared well in the "best of California" categories, which acknowledge the best wines by varietal.

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