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Beer Beats Wine! Beer Beats Wine!

Beer is now up 2-1 after annual dinner grudge match at Rancho Bernardo Inn

By Ron Donoho

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The results are in: Beer is better than wine. At least that's how the voting went at the third annual Beer vs. Wine dinner held recently at Rancho Bernardo Inn. How it works: The resort's executive chef Judd Canepari prepared a five-course dinner, served at on-property El Bizcocho. Each course was paired with both a wine and a beer. One hundred and five diners were in attendance, and voted on which they thought was a better pairing for each course.



When the dust settled, Beer won.

This was a grudge match (fortunately no punches were thrown, and smack talk was deemed mild). Beer won in 2007 and Wine made a comeback last year. The beers were selected by Stone Brewing Company CEO Greg Koch and the wines were selected by sommelier Barry Wiss, from Trinchero Wines. The final tally: Beer 242, Wine 241. The voting was so close ballots had to be recounted, twice. "It was way too close for comfort for me, but ultimately it was indeed Beer that won," says Koch. "This is a big deal," says Koch. "The premise of the dinner—the motivation for me to do it—was to prove a point. I intentionally picked a wine-centric, fine dining, chef-driven restaurant. I wanted to show that even in this 'hostile territory' the ability of great craft beer to pair amazingly with great food was equal, or better, to that of fine wine." After Beer was declared the winner, emcee David Sheline, wearing pink boxing gloves, announced that in light of October being breast cancer awareness month, Rancho Bernardo Inn would donate a portion of the dinner's proceeds to breast cancer charities.

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