



CALIFORNIA EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL EARNS TOP NOD IN LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL EVOO COMPETITION

Judges From Around The World Gather at Fairplex in Pomona, CA, For International Event

POMONA, CA (March 11, 2026) – In a showdown featuring products from 22 countries, judges from around the world sampled 588 extra virgin olive oils at the 27th annual Los Angeles International Extra Virgin Olive Oil Competition and selected Heart Rock Ranch Olive Oil, Hojiblanca, Central Coast, California for the Marco Mugelli Award – the finest olive oil in the competition. Held at Fairplex, home of the LA County Fair, the LAIEVOO Competition is rated the premiere event in the world.

Heart Rock Ranch Olive Oil, Hojiblanca, Central Coast, California received the Marco Mugelli prize, an award given by judges to the top of all the best of show extra virgin olive oils. Named after the late internationally recognized agricultural scientist, engineer, olive oil expert and founder of the National Association of Olive Oil Tasters (ANAPOO) in Italy, Dr. Marco Mugelli, the prize exemplifies the “best of the best,” according to Darrell Corti, chairman of the LAIEVOOC.

The Competition awarded the Margaret Edwards Award for Best of Show – Flavored to Pasolivo, Lemon, Paso Robles, California. Edwards was the leader of the now-disbanded, IOC-recognized New Zealand tasting panel for olive oil. She was an international olive oil judge and a consultant to the olive industry. She ran olive oil workshops and lectured about New Zealand extra virgin olive oil prior to her passing in 2024. She was the author of numerous publications about food, nutrition and olive oil.

In addition to the top two prizes, the following earned “best of show” status:

BEST OF SHOW – DOMESTIC

- DELICATE
ENZO, Arbequina, Organic, Madera, California
- MEDIUM
Heart Rock Ranch Olive Oil, Hojiblanca, Central Coast, California
- ROBUST
43 Ranch, Picual, Central Coast, California

BEST OF SHOW – INTERNATIONAL

- DELICATE
Nippon Olive, Ushimado, Blend, Japan
- MEDIUM
CARBONELL, Magna Oliva, Spain

- ROBUST
Rincón De La Subbética, Hojiblanca, DOP Priego de Cordoba, Spain

In addition to these top honors, 6 Best of Division Awards, 33 Best of Class Awards, 133 Gold Medal Awards, 141 Silver Medal Awards and 99 Bronze Medal Awards were presented to EVOO representatives from Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, Croatia, Greece, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Montenegro, Morocco, Portugal, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey, and the USA.

About Fairplex:

Fairplex is a nonprofit, 501(c)5 organization that leads a 500-acre campus proudly located in the City of Pomona. Fairplex exists in a public-private partnership with the County of Los Angeles and is home of the LA County Fair.

Media contact:
Renee Hernandez
Hernandez@fairplex.com
(909) 865-4261