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The winners of The Game Awards 2022—and where to buy them

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Step aside Oscars, and make way Grammys, there's only one award show that matters in December: The Game Awards. Created in 2014 and hosted by video game journalist Geoff Keighley, The Game Awards are a celebration of the year's best games, with nominations across various categories such as the best game score and the best virtual reality. Additionally, The Game Awards is an evening of trailer premieres for highly anticipated video games.

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Last night, some of this year's most buzzed-about games including God of War: Ragnarök and Elden Ring took home several awards. Whether you're figuring out what games to gift this holiday season or you're a gamer looking to treat yourself, we're here to help you buy this year's hottest games. Here are the winners of The Game Awards 2022—and where to buy them.

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Winners of The Game Awards 2022

Game of the Year

The winner of this award is seen as the absolute best game of the year and excels in both creativity and technical fidelity.

Winner: Elden Ring

Available on Xbox One, Xbox Series X/S, PS4, PS5, online

Other nominees: A Plague Tale: Requiem, God of War Ragnarök, Horizon Forbidden West, Stray, Xenoblade Chronicles 3

From \$44.95 at Walmart

Best Game Direction

The winner of this award has an excellent creative vision and innovative design philosophy.

Winner: Elden Ring

Available on Xbox One, Xbox Series X/S, PS4, PS5, online

Other nominees: God of War Ragnarök, Horizon Forbidden West, Immortality, Stray

From \$44.95 at Walmart

Best Narrative

This award's winner is seen as having strong storytelling.

Winner: God of War Ragnarök

Available on PS4, PS5

Other nominees: A Plague Tale: Requiem, Elden Ring, Horizon Forbidden West, Immortality

From \$59.88 at Walmart

Best Art Direction

This award acknowledges a game's outstanding art design, be it through character, animation or environmental design.

Winner: Elden Ring

Available on Xbox One, Xbox Series X/S, PS4, PS5, online

Other nominees: God of War: Ragnarök, Horizon Forbidden West, Scorn, Stray

From \$44.95 at Walmart

Best Score/Music

The recipient of this award is a composer who crafted an excellent soundtrack that enhances all aspects of a game.

Winner: Bear McCreary - God of War: Ragnarök

Available on PS4, PS5

Other nominees: Olivier Deriviere - A Plague Tale: Requiem, Tsukasa Saitoh - Elden Ring, Two Feathers - Metal Hellsinger, Yasunori Mitsuda

From \$59.88 at Walmart

Best Audio Design

Separate from score/music, this award recognizes the sound effects and audio that further tie a game together.

Winner: God of War Ragnarök

Available on PS4, PS5

Other nominees: Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2, Elden Ring, Gran Turismo 7, Horizon Forbidden West

From \$59.88 at Walmart

Best Performance

The winner of this award is an individual with outstanding voice-acting, motion or performance capture.

Winner: Christopher Judge - God of War: Ragnarök

Available on PS4, PS5

Other nominees: Ashly Birch - Horizon Forbidden West, Charlotte McBurney - A Plague Tale: Requiem, Manon Gage - Immortality, Sunny Suljic - God of War: Ragnarok

From \$59.88 at Walmart

Games for Impact

The winner of this game has a thought-provoking social message or theme in its narrative.

Winner: As Dusk Falls

Available on Xbox One, Xbox Series X/S, Xbox Cloud Gaming, online

Other nominees: A Memoir Blue, Citizen Sleeper, Endling - Extinction is Forever, Hindsight, I Was a Teenage Exocolonist

From \$29.99 at Target

Best Ongoing Game

This award is given to the best game with no set endpoint, mostly understood as a game that is continually being developed.

Winner: Final Fantasy 14 Online

Available online

Other nominees: Apex Legends, Destiny 2, Fortnite, Genshin Impact

Play free trial

Best Indie Game

The award is given to the best game created by an independent or small publisher.

Winner: Stray

Available on PS4, PS5, online

Other nominees: Cult of the Lamb, Neon White, Sifu, TUNIC

\$40 at Walmart

Best Debut Indie Game

This is awarded to the best game created by a newly formed independent or small publisher.

Winner: Stray

Available on PS4, PS5, online

Other nominees: Neon White, NORCO, TUNIC, Vampire Survivors

\$40 at Walmart

Best Mobile Game

This is awarded to the best game that can be played on mobile devices such as phones or tablets.

Winner: Marvel Snap

Available on iOS, Android, online

Other nominees: Apex Legends Mobile, Diablo Immortal, Genshin Impact, Tower of Fantasy

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Best Community Support

The winner of this award is acknowledged as having a responsive team that is helpful and transparent with its community of players about updates, patches and more.

Winner: Final Fantasy 14 Online

Available online

Other nominees: Apex Legends, Destiny 2, Fortnite, No Man's Sky

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Best VR/AR Game

This is awarded to the best game created for augmented and virtual reality platforms such as Meta Quest 2.

Winner: Moss: Book II

Available on PS4, PS5, online

Other nominees: After the Fall, Among Us VR, BONELAB, Red Matter 2

\$29.99 on Oculus

Innovation in Accessibility

This award recognizes a game with features and content that help it to be enjoyed by a wider audience.

Winner: God of War: Ragnarök

Available on PS4, PS5

Other nominees: As Dusk Falls, Returnal, Return to Monkey Island, The Last of Us Part 1, The Quarry

From \$59.88 at Walmart

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Best Action Game

This award is given to the best game in the action genre. These games typically have a heavy focus on combat.

Winner: Bayonetta 3

Available on Nintendo Switch

Other nominees: Call of Duty: Modern Warfare II, Neon White, Sifu, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Shredder's Revenge

\$55.13 at Amazon

Best Action/Adventure Game

This is awarded to the best game in the action/adventure genre, which often blends combat with puzzle-solving and exploration.

Winner: God of War Ragnarök

Available on PS4, PS5

Other nominees: A Plague Tale: Requiem, Horizon Forbidden West, Stray, TUNIC

From \$59.88 at Walmart

Best RPG

This is awarded to the best game in the roleplaying game (RPG) genre. These games will often focus on customization and/or making your character stronger by gaining levels.

Winner: Elden Ring

Available on Xbox One, Xbox Series X/S, PS4, PS5, online

Other nominees: Live a Live, Pokémon Legends: Arceus, Triangle Strategy, Xenoblade Chronicles 3

From \$44.95 at Walmart

Best Fighting Game

This is awarded to the best game in the fighting genre. These games are focused around player-versus-player combat.

Winner: MultiVersus

Available on Xbox One, Xbox Series X/S, PS4, PS5, online

Other nominees: DNF Duel, JoJo's Bizarre Adventure: All Star Battle R, The King of Fighters 15, Sifu

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Best Family Game

This is awarded to games whose content is seen as being enjoyable for families to play together, regardless of age.

Winner: Kirby and the Forgotten Land

Available on Nintendo Switch

Other nominees: LEGO Star Wars: The Skywalker Saga, Mario + Rabbids Sparks of Hope, Nintendo Switch Sports, Splatoon 3

\$50.89 on Amazon

Best Sports/Racing Game

This is awarded to the best in the sports or racing genre. Sports games emulate real-life sports such as basketball or football. Racing games refer to games in which a player tries to reach the goal the fastest.

Winner: Gran Turismo 7

Available on PS4, PS5

Other nominees: F1 22, FIFA 23, NBA 2K23, OlliOlli World

\$29.97 at Walmart

Best SIM/Strategy Game

This is awarded to the game with the best simulation real-time or turn-based. Additionally, this award focuses on the best strategy gameplay.

Winner: Mario + Rabbids Sparks of Hope

Available on Nintendo Switch

Other nominees: Dune: Spice Wars, Total War: WARHAMMER 3, Two Point Campus, Victoria 3

\$31.98 at Amazon

Best Multiplayer Game

Awarded to the game with outstanding multiplayer gameplay, design and experience.

Winner: Splatoon 3

Available on Nintendo Switch

Other nominees: Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2, MultiVersus, Overwatch 2, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Shredder's Revenge

\$58.99 at Amazon

Content Creator of the Year

Awarded to a streamer or content creator who has left a positive impact on the gaming community.

Winner: Ludwig

Other nominees: Karl Jacobs, Nibellion, Nobru, QTCinderella

Best Esports Athlete

Awarded to an electronic sports athlete noted for their outstanding performance and conduct.

Winner: Jaccob "yay" Whiteaker (Cloud9, VALORANT)

Available online

Other nominees: Jeong "Chovy" Ji-hoon (Gen.G, LOL), Lee "Faker" Sang-hyeok (T1, LOL), Finn "Karrigan" Andersen (FaZe Clan, CS:GO), Oleksandr "s1mple" Kostyliev (Natus Vincere, CS:GO)

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Best Esports Coach

This award celebrates an electronic sports coach notable for their outstanding performance and conduct.

Winner: Matheus “bzka” Tarasconi (LOUD, VALORANT)

Available online

Other nominees: Andrii "B1ad3" Horodenskyi (Natus Vincere, CS:GO), Erik “doombros” Sandgren (FPX, VALORANT), Robert "RobbaN" Dahlström (FaZe Clan, CS:GO), Go "Score" Dong-bin (Gen.G, LOL)

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Best Esports Event

Awarded to an electronic sports event that delivered a superb experience for players and audiences alike.

Winner: 2022 League of Legends World Championship

Available online

Other nominees: EVO 2022, PGL Major Antwerp 2022, The 2022 Mid-Season Invitational, VALORANT Champions 2022

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Best Esports Game

Awarded to the electronic sports game with the best player experience, taking into account tournaments, community support and content updates.

Winner: VALORANT

Available online

Other nominees: Counter-Strike: Global Offensive, DOTA 2, League of Legends, Rocket League

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Best Esports Team

This award recognizes an electronic sports team notable for its outstanding performance and conduct.

Winner: LOUD (VALORANT)

Available online

Other nominees: DarkZero Esports (Apex Legends), FaZe Clan (CS:GO), Gen.G (League of Legends), LA Thieves (Call of Duty)

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Most Anticipated Game

This is awarded to a currently unreleased game that is generating the most excitement among potential players.

Winner: The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom

Available on Nintendo Switch starting May 12, 2023

Other nominees: Final Fantasy 16, Hogwarts Legacy, Resident Evil 4, Starfield

Pre-order at Walmart

Best Adaptation

Awarded to the best adaptation of a video game in movies, TV, comics or more.

Winner: Arcane: League of Legends

Available online

Other nominees: Cyberpunk: Edgerunners, The Cuphead Show!, Sonic the Hedgehog 2, Uncharted

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Award-winning games:

- **Elden Ring:** Starting at \$44.95 at Walmart (Save up to \$15)
- **Bayonetta 3:** \$55.13 at Amazon (Save \$5)
- **Gran Turismo 7:** \$29.97 at Walmart (Save \$39.02)
- **Mario + Rabbids Sparks of Hope:** \$31.98 at Amazon (Save \$28.01)

Other video games:

- **Animal Crossing: New Horizons:** \$49.94 at Walmart (Save \$10.05)
- **Horizon Forbidden West:** \$29.97 at Walmart (Save \$30.02)
- **Just Dance 2023 Edition:** \$39.97 at Walmart (Save \$20.02)
- **The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild:** \$39.99 at Walmart (Save \$20)
- **PGA Tour 2K23:** \$34.97 at Amazon (Save \$35.02)
- **FIFA 23 Standard Edition:** \$34.99 at Best Buy (Save \$35)
- **Assassin's Creed Valhalla Ragnarok Edition:** \$29.99 at Best Buy (Save \$70)
- **NBA 2K23:** \$34.99 at Target (Save \$35)
- **Madden NFL 23:** \$29.99 at Target (Save \$30)

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