

Vancouver International Wine Festival

1. Marisco Vineyards, The King's Favour Sauvignon Blanc, Waihopai Valley, Marlborough, New Zealand 2015 (12.5%), 100% Sauvignon Blanc

Result: Platinum, Best New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc over £15, 95 points
Producer contact: Matthew Mitchell, matt@marisco.co.nz

Decanter tasting notes: A beauty with an expressive bouquet of dried herbs, Granny Smith apples, gooseberries and tomato stalk. The palate is concentrated and has a lot of fresh citrus notes. There's an attractive, flinty mineral edge as well. Lovely weight and texture add to the complexity of this stunning wine.



2. Poplar Grove, Pinot Gris, Okanagan Valley, British Columbia, Canada 2015 (13.4%), 96% Pinot Gris, 2% Viognier, 2% Chardonnay

Result: Bronze, 86 points
Producer contact: Daphne Tomkins, daphne@poplargo.com

Decanter tasting notes: Intense pear drop and stone fruit aromas lead to dry, richly extracted, full flavours of pear, apple and a touch of spice, with crisp acidity providing balance.



3. Arboleda, Chardonnay, Aconcagua Costa, Aconcagua Valley, Chile 2015 (13%), 100% Chardonnay

Result: Gold, 95 points
Producer contact: Maria Chadwick, mechadwick@chadwickwines.cl

Decanter tasting notes: Elegant nose, understated, with spicy notes of clove, cinnamon and fresh toast. Then the wine emerges in the glass, layered, vigorous, with harmonious flinty, salty, citrusy and almondy character. It is profound, savoury-sweet in that way really good Chardonnay can be. An impressive wine with a tremendous energy.



4. 50th Parallel Estate, Chardonnay, Okanagan Valley, British Columbia, Canada 2014 (14%), 100% Chardonnay

Result: Bronze, 87 points
Producer contact: Nicole Martinez, nicole@50thparallel.com

Decanter tasting notes: Discreet bouquet of toast, wet stone and lemon precedes dry but full and round flavours of butter, peach, new oak spice and creamy mango.



5. Marisco Vineyards, The Ned Pinot Rosé, Marlborough, New Zealand 2015 (13%), 56% Pinot Gris, 42% Pinot Noir, 2% Gewurztraminer

Result: Silver, 91 points
Producer contact: Matthew Mitchell, matt@marisco.co.nz

Decanter tasting notes: Clean, lifted and spicy/floral notes on nose. The palate is pretty and fresh with a lifted berry fruit and fresh crunchy rhubarb and a hint of rose hop. Very sensitively made.



6. Baron Philippe de Rothschild, Mouton Cadet Rouge, Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France 2014 (12.5%), 84% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Cabernet Franc

Result: Bronze, 87 points
Producer contact: Koch Philippe, pkoch@bphr.com

Decanter tasting notes: Cherries wood smoke and pain au raisin nose, lovely cassis palate with great weight and spicy interest.



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7. Gérard Bertrand, Château l'Hospitalet, la Réserve, Languedoc, Languedoc La Clape, France 2014 (13.5%), 40% Syrah, 30% Grenache, 30% Mourvedre

Result: Silver, 91 points
Producer contact: Aude Bernijol, a.bernijol@gerard-bertrand.com

Decanter tasting notes: Spicy and smoky with black olive and garrigue on the nose. The palate is silky and mouth-filling with preserved fruit, spice and cream.



8. Louis Bernard, Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France 2014 (14%), 60% Grenache, 30% Syrah, 10% Mourvedre

Result: Silver, 90 points
Producer contact: Barbara Galeotti, louis-bernard@gmdf.fr

Decanter tasting notes: The nose is dominated by floral characters of violet with a hint of cherry. The supple palate continues to display sweet cherry fruit with juicy acidity and low key yet firm tannins.



9. Zuccardi, Tito, Altamira, San Carlos, Mendoza, Argentina 2013 (14%), 80% Malbec, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Ancellotta

Result: Platinum Best In Show, Best Red Blend over £15, 96 points
Producer contact: Juan Guzman, jguzman@familiazuccardi.com

Decanter tasting notes: Beautiful purity on the nose dominated by notes of roses, lavender, gorgeous black fruits and a hint of spices. Fantastic concentration on the palate, still a little young but the structure is perfect, black fruit flavours are intense and the length is stunning. This wine is full of finesse and contrast, showing austerity and opulence at the same time - a masterpiece!



10. Bodega Catena Zapata, Catena Alta Historic Rows Malbec, Mendoza, Argentina 2013 (14%), 100% Malbec

Result: Silver, 92 points
Producer contact: Lucia Garcia, lgarcia@catenazapata.com

Decanter tasting notes: Delicate floral nose of wild violet and lavender, enhanced by a touch of pink pepper and fresh herbs. Fleshy, full-bodied, with a strong structure, fine grained tannins and well-integrated oak. An excellent bottle of Malbec with typicity.



11. Bodega Garzon, Tannat, Uruguay 2014 (14%), 100% Tannat

Result: Gold, 95 points
Producer contact: Teresa Cedenilla, teresac@blendswineestates.com

Decanter tasting notes: Pleasantly fresh on the nose. The palate is generous and expressive with a plethora of ripe, juicy black fruits and a clean, pure mineral expression. Tannins are medium plus but really approachable and well balanced by a beautiful fruit. A perfect execution.



12. Inniskillin, Riesling Icewine, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario - Niagara Peninsula, Canada 2014 (9%), 100% Riesling

Result: Gold, 95 points
Producer contact: Darcel Giesbrecht, dylan.bibby@cbrands.com

Decanter tasting notes: Opening with a breathtaking patchwork of honeyed botrytis fruit fused with notes of ginger, rose petal and apple pie, this is particularly noteworthy for its energy and power whilst retaining extraordinary elegance and freshness. The substantial density of honeyed-mango flavours are in perfect harmony with mouthwatering acidity; awe-inspiring.

