



SURPRISE WINNERS FROM THE WORLD'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS WINE COMPETITION

English wine Winbirri puts Norfolk on the fine wine map

New standout winners from unexpected regions

Marks & Spencer's wine from Uruguay leads surprise winners

Decanter World Wine Awards (DWWA), the largest and most prestigious wine competition in the world, announces its highly anticipated results for 2017, following a rigorous week of judging (Judging Week) where 258 of the most respected wine experts in the world formed the judging panel. This year there were over 17,200 wines entered, more than ever before.

The Decanter World Wine Awards 2017 Co-Chair Gerard Basset OBE MW MS says: *"This is an extraordinary competition. Nowhere in the world would you find such a gathering of world authorities with one aim in mind: awarding quality"*.

Sarah Jane Evans MW, one of the new three co-chairs for DWWA 2017 adds: *"This event sorts out the 'must buy' and the 'definitely try'...It's a shortcut for all of us to quality in every region and variety. There are grape varieties that are really rare; regions that are very new; and plenty of the favourites"*.

East Anglia's time to shine

Standing out from the success of homegrown wines this year, this year's awards are marked by England's Winbirri Vineyards scooping a **Platinum Best in Show** in the Best Value White Single Varietal category for its **Winbirri, Bacchus, Norfolk, United Kingdom 2015**, the first time an English still wine has won one of DWWA's highest honours.

Judges described Winbirri's Bacchus 2015 as a 'perfect aperitif wine', highlighting that the wine has a 'complex, oily nose with spice, elderflower and citrus', and is 'elegant and delicate with a slight spritz and a long, clean finish'.

The victory of the Winbirri, which is stocked by both Waitrose and Lea & Sandeman, well and truly puts the grape Bacchus on the world wine map, a grape until now relatively unknown by most of the wine world.

This year's results prove that UK wine, which continues to rise in reputation, is showing no sign of slowing down. With the sparkling category dominating the top wins, including **Wiston Estate, Cuvée Brut, West Sussex, England 2013** which took away the Best UK Sparkling White but this year both still and sweet English wines were recognised. Gusbourne took away a Platinum for **Best UK Red** for its **Gusbourne, Boot Hill Vineyard Pinor Noir, Kent, England 2015** and Surrey's Denbies was awarded **Best UK Sweet** for its **Denbies, Noble Harvest, Surrey, England 2015**.

Supermarkets sweep top awards

Building on last year's success of supermarket own label wines, the UK's leading major retailers including Asda, Marks & Spencer's, Aldi and Lidl all took away top awards this year.

Marks & Spencer's leads the way with one **Platinum Best In Show** and **four Platinum Best In Category** awards, including **Best Australian White Blend** for **Marks & Spencer, Maranaga Dam Marsanne-Viognier-Roussanne, Barossa Valley, Australia 2015** and **Best Value Chilean Red Blend** for its **Marks & Spencer, Miguel Torres Reserva Ancestral Old Vine Carignan, Itata Valley, Chile 2014**.

Uruguay's **Platinum Best In Show** award for **Marks & Spencer's Pisano Cisplatino Tannat, Progreso, Uruguay 2015** in the **Best Value Red Single Varietal category**, stands out from the emerging wine regions this year.

Surprise winners for 2017

Whilst the stalwart wine regions have picked up a host of awards this year, there's strong competition from unexpected terroirs, including Luxemburg, Russia, China and Israel.

Luxembourg and Russia proved their potential with **one Platinum Best in Category** award each including **Clos Des Rochers, Riesling Palmberg, Moselle, Luxembourg 2015** for **Best Central & Eastern European White** and Russia's **Fanagoria, A Hundred Shades of Red Saperavi, Krasnodar, Russia 2015** for **Best Value Central & Eastern European Red**.

This year Israel also triumphed with **Best Middle East Red** for **Golan Heights Winery, Yarden Cabernet Sauvignon, Galilee, Israel 2013**, and China surprised judges with **three Gold** medals for its icewines, including **Yajianggu Winery, Vidal Icewine, Jilin, China 2014**, won the **Platinum** medal for the Asian Sweet Wine Category.

Judging Week

Decanter World Wine Awards is internationally recognised and considered the most prestigious wine competition in the world. This is due in large part to the judging process, where the world's largest gathering of the most respected international wine experts come together free from distraction to focus solely on tasting the wines.

During Judging Week, each wine receives on average four minutes of discussion from the world's top wine gurus. Three new Co-Chairs were appointed for the 2017 DWWA; Gerard Basset OBE MW MS, Sarah Jane Evans MW and Michael Hill Smith MW, as well as over 258 of the top wine sommeliers, renowned authorities on wine, wine authors, including 20 Master Sommeliers and 68 Masters of Wine. Only the very best in the world are invited to judge and the result is the greatest judging panel ever seen.

There is upmost respect for each wine, as each is grouped into categories and blind tasted. Each wine is judged individually and notes are compared to collectively agree on a medal (bronze, silver or gold), seal of approval (commended) or no medal. Each silver and gold wine is then re-tasted by the Regional Chairs to ensure consistency across the panel. Gold winning wines are also re-tasted by the Co-Chairs for final endorsement. Wines awarded a gold medal go on to be re-tasted by the Regional Chair and

selected judges from each regional panel to award Platinum medals and all Platinum medal winners are tasted afterwards for a fourth time to collectively agree on Platinum Best in Show winners.

Sarah Kemp, Decanter's Managing Director: "The competition's success is a tribute to the great judging process. A consumer can be sure that each wine has been evaluated by the world's leading experts".

The DWWA judging week takes months to plan and involves 42,000 Riedel glasses.

Throughout the week, not-for-profit water producer Belu also supplied 2,700 bottles of its mineral water.

To date the Decanter World Wine Awards has raised more than half a million pounds for WaterAid since it began in 2004. This incredible amount of money has been generated by auctioning off the wine leftover from the awards. This year's auction at Christie's takes place on 21st September followed by an online auction from the 28th of November until the 12th of December.

The full results of DWWA 2017 winners are now available at <http://awards.decanter.com/DWWA/2017>. Consumers will have the opportunity to try a selection of the winning wines at the upcoming Decanter World Wine Awards Tasting on 3 July 2017 at Vintners' Hall, London and at promotional events worldwide.

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For further information and images, please contact the Decanter team at decanter@bacchus-pr.com or call 020 8968 0202

Notes to Editors

About Decanter World Wine Awards (DWWA)

- Launched in 2004 by *Decanter* magazine, 2017 is the fourteenth edition of the competition
- The DWWA is respected internationally for its prestigious reputation and unrivalled consumer influence
- This year, over 17,200 wine entries from around the world were received in the DWWA
- Co-Chaired by Gerard Basset OBE MW MS, Sarah Jane Evans MW and Michael Hill Smith MW the DWWA 2017 consists of a panel of over 258 judges, including 68 Masters of Wine, and 20 Master Sommeliers
- Wines are organised for tasting by country, region, colour, grape, style, vintage, and price, to ensure that wines are judged blind in flights against their peers
- Wines awarded gold or silver medals are re-tasted by the regional chair for his or her confirmation
- Gold winning wines are also re-tasted by the Co-Chairs for final endorsement
- All gold medal-winning wines within each region are divided into categories according to price (under or over £15) and style or grape variety to compete for the Platinum medal
- The Platinum Best in Show medals are then awarded to the best wines in the Platinum category
- There is no upper limit on the number of medals that can be awarded
- Each medal has an individual score (100 point system)

- A full list of judges can be found here: <http://www.decanter.com/awards-home/the-dwwa-judges/>
- Full results are published on Decanter.com
- Winning wines are promoted at a series of tastings and fairs in 2017:
 - o DWWA trade and consumer tasting in London on 3 July
 - o Decanter Fine Wine Encounter 2017
 - o Global tasting programme and retail promotions world-wide
 - o More to be confirmed
- The DWWA 2017 is sponsored by Riedel glasses and Belu water



About Decanter

The Decanter brand comprises of:

- *Decanter* magazine, which is sold in 91 countries
- Decanter Events, an annual programme of world-class events for consumers and trade
- Decanter.com (www.decanter.com), which generates views (Source: Google Analytics)
- DecanterChina.com (www.decanterchina.com), a bi-lingual English and Simplified Chinese website, created specifically for Chinese wine lovers
- Decanter Asia Wine Awards, Asia's largest wine competition
- Decanter World Wine Awards, the world's largest and most prestigious wine competition
- In 2017, there are a total of 11,055 wines awarded:
 - 34 Platinum Best in Show winners
 - 175 Platinum winners
 - 456 Gold medal winners (excludes all Platinum and Platinum Best in Show winners)
 - 3,347 Silver medal winners
 - 7,043 Bronze medal winners
- 3,654 wines given a seal of approval – commended rating