

Decanter World Wine Awards 2018 – Results Press Release – Asia inc. China

Success for Chinese wine industry as 8 local wines win Gold in the world's largest wine competition, and Central Asian regions see rise in entries to the Decanter World Wine Awards

The 2018 results of the Decanter World Wine Awards (DWWA), the world's largest wine competition, have been released, underlining the continuing increase in diversity offered to consumers, with more than 60 countries submitting wines.

The 15th edition of the Decanter World Wine Awards received nearly 17,000 entries, with a marked increase in wines coming from emerging markets in Central Europe such as Bulgaria, Moldova and Serbia, as well as Central Asian countries such as Armenia and Kazakhstan.

Over the course of an intense week at London's CentrEd at ExCeL, 275 judges from 33 countries assessed the entries, eventually awarding just 50 wines (0.3% of entries) the ultimate accolade of Best in Show, 149 wines (0.88% of entries) a Platinum medal and 439 wines (2.60% of entries) a Gold medal. A combined total of just over 10,500 further wines were awarded Silver or Bronze medals.

Entering 245 wines into the competition, China was the biggest Asian winner in the competition, gaining a total of 121 medals, beating the United Kingdom and coming within a whisker of beating Germany's total of 122. 8 Gold, 30 Silver and 83 Bronze medals were awarded to Chinese wines, which have been rapidly gaining renown throughout the world. The Gold medal winners showed the breadth of wine production in China, with wines coming from Xinjiang, Shandong, Ningxia and Liaoning, as well as the diversity, featuring wines such as Chateau Changyu's Golden Icewine Valley Blue Label Vidal, Talia Winery's Petit Manseng and Zhongfei Winery's Caring Nature Barrel Aged Marselan. Another country in the region to fare admirably in the competition was Japan, with 3 Koshu wines winning Gold medals; Grace Kayagatake Koshu & Private Reserve Koshu, and Shirayuri Winery's L'Orient Cellar Master Koshu. Entries were also received from India, Taiwan and Thailand.

In other results, the greatest medal tally for 2018 went to France, a consistent high achiever, which amassed 12 Best in Show titles, with 3 apiece going to Burgundy and Rhone wines, 22 Platinum medals and 87 Gold medals in an overall total of 2,580. Second in the running for the most medals was Italy with 2,131, and 6 Best in Show titles that highlight the country's wealth of prominent wine regions, with winners from Trentino Alto-Adige, Lombardy, Piedmont, Veneto, Sicily and Tuscany. Spanish wines performed valiantly, receiving a total of 1,331 medals, including an impressive 9 Best in Show from across Rioja, Rías Baixas, Priorat, Sherry and Cava. Australia, which is one of the biggest wine exporters to China, received a notable 6 Best in Show medals, including the Tapanappa Tiers Vineyard Chardonnay from South Australia, along with 20 Platinum, 38 Gold and 273 Silver medals to gather an overall total of 804.

Some of the more intriguing results that the 2018 Decanter World Wine Awards revealed include;

- A Platinum medal winning Barovo from Tikveš winery in Macedonia's Central Republic made using Kratošija and Vranac, a variety indigenous to the Balkans
- Vinařství Gotbery Ryzlink Rýnský, a Platinum medal winning unoaked Riesling from Moravia in the Czech Republic
- 3 Platinum medal winning wines from Switzerland, including two white wines from the Valais produced from lesser-known grape varieties; Flétrie Blanc de Glace from Gregor Kuonen made with Petite Arvine and L'Ambassadeur Des Domaines Diego Mathier by Adrian & Diego Mathier, a blend of Savagnin, Petite Arvine and Marsanne
- A Value Platinum medal winner from Georgia; an unoaked, reasonably priced Qvevri Kisi from Maranuli in the Kakheti region
- 8 Gold medal-winning wines from China (up from 3 in 2017) that reveal the increasing breadth of wine production in the country, including a 100% Vidal Chateau Changyu Ice Wine from Liaoning, a Talia Winery Petit Manseng from Shandong and a Marselan from Zhongfei Winery in Xinjiang

- 3 Gold medal winning Koshu wines from Japan, including 2 from Grace Winery in Chubu Province; Kayagatake Koshu and Private Reserve Koshu
- 2 Gold medal winning wines from Moldova; Dor Reserve Merlot from Bostavan and a Traminer-Muscat Ottonel Ice Wine from Fautor

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About the Decanter World Wine Awards

Launched in 2004, the Decanter World Wine Awards is the world's largest wine competition. The 2018 edition saw a panel of 275 judges from 33 countries, including 59 Masters of Wine and 25 Master Sommeliers, judge a total of 16,903 wines submitted from 61 countries. This year a new system to award top medalists was introduced – Platinum and Best in Show. Gold medal-winning wines are re-categorised by grape or style and re-tasted by a panel of Regional and Co-Chairs. The wines are judged according to their origin and the judges are aware of countries, regions, sub-regions, grapes, vintages and price bands. The winners are awarded Platinum medals. Those with a price band below £15 are awarded a Best Value Platinum medal. In a separate tasting, the 4 Co-Chairs of the judging panel select the Best in Show from the Platinum winners, and are aware of origins, grape varieties, vintage and price bands. Full details on the judging process can be found on [Decanter.com](https://www.decanter.com).