Decanter World Wine Awards 2018 – Results Press Release – Canada

Canadian wines score medal triumph over the United States in world's largest wine competition, as results are announced for the 2018 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.

Canadian wines were awarded a total of 210 medals, from Platinum to Bronze, beating the United States' final tally of 145 by a significant margin. Through all medal categories, Canadian wines outperformed their American counterparts, winning 1 Best in Show, 4 Platinum, 13 Gold, 59 Silver and 133 Bronze medals, to the USA's 1 Best in Show, 1 Platinum, 10 Gold, 32 Silver and 101 Bronze medals. 10 Platinum and Gold winning wines came from Ontario's Niagara Peninsula, including the Best in Show winning Thirty Bench Small Lot Cabernet Franc in which judges found "beautifully ripened fruits expressed with great purity and poised charm". Showcasing the variety of wines produced in Canada, other winners included a Champagne-blend sparkling rosé from Trius (Platinum), a Reserve Shiraz from British Columbia producer Mission Hill (Gold) and a Family Reserve Chardonnay from Quail's Gate also in British Columbia. Canadian icewines also saw success in the competition; with Wayne Gretzky Estates No.99 Vidal Icewine winning a Platinum

medal for its "intense palate of peach, mango and well-balanced caramel over citrus zest" and Inniskillin's Niagara Estate Vidal Icewine winning Gold for its "honeyed aromas with layers of stone fruit and lychee".

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.

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

Trade and consumers alike can be among the first to taste over 100 award-winning wines from the 2018 Decanter World Wine Awards at a special tasting on Monday 2nd July at Vintners' Hall. Tickets cost £40 per person and full details can be found on Decanter.com

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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.