

Decanter World Wine Awards 2018 – Results Press Release – Italy

Italian wines take second place globally in world's largest wine competition; however receive more Platinum medals than France, as results are revealed 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, Kazakhstan and Ukraine.

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.

Italian wines were awarded over 2000 medals in the 2018 Decanter World Wine Awards, confirming the country's position as one of the world's most popular and most consistent wine producers, and highlighting its wealth of prominent wine regions. 6 of the competition's Best in Show medals were awarded to Italian wines, all from differing regions, including Cantina Valle Isarco's Aristos Pinot Grigio from the Alto Adige which judges found "to combine richness and delicacy to tantalising effect". Also winning Best in Show were a sweet Ben Ryé from Donnafugata in Sicily produced with 100% Zibibbo and La Cruus, a 100% Nebbiolo from Mamete Prevostini in Lombardy. 29 Platinum medals awarded to Italian wines featured 10 medals from Tuscany, 6 from Piedmont and 4 from Veneto, however also included 2 wines from Sardinia; a white 100% Vernaccia di Oristano Riserva by Silvio Carta and a red 100% Cannonau Sileno Riserva by Ferruccio Deiana.

Of the 21 Italian wine regions that were judged in the competition (only France and Italy are split into distinct regions for judging), Piedmont and Veneto were the most awarded, with 464 medals and 384 medals respectively, followed closely by Tuscany with 369 medals. The growing global demand for wines from Sicily was reflected in their medal total of 130, including 1 Best in Show and 2 Gold medals. Both Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Puglia performed impressively, gathering 124 and 118 medals respectively.

The greatest medal tally for 2018 went to France, a consistent high achiever, which amassed a total of 2580 medals, including 12 Best in Show titles, 22 Platinum medals, and 87 Gold medals. 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. Neighbouring Portugal amassed a total of 420 medals, including 5 Best in Show titles for Port & Madeira wines. As the United Kingdom's wine industry continues to grow, so do its submissions to the Decanter World Wine Awards and 2018 saw a total of 118 medal-winning wines from 138 tasted, including 3 Platinum medals awarded to English sparkling wines.

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.