

## **Decanter World Wine Awards 2018 – Results Press Release – New Zealand**

### **Sauvignon reigns supreme for New Zealand 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

Long a cornerstone of the New Zealand wine industry, Sauvignon Blanc took home a combined total of 9 top medals at the 2018 Decanter World Wine Awards, including one Best in Show title, the competition's highest award, for Vavasour's "fresh, long and vivid" Awatere Valley Sauvignon Blanc and two Value Platinum medals for Kono Sauvignon Blanc and Workshop Wine Co. Mastercraft Sauvignon Blanc. Two other Best in Show titles were awarded to Elephant Hill's "concentrated and ambitious" Hawke's Bay Chardonnay and Ceres Wines' "complex and commanding"

Composition Pinot Noir from Central Otago. New Zealand's overall total of 351 medals in the world's largest wine competition included a further 6 Platinum medals, 15 Gold medals and 129 Silver medals. Whilst Marlborough was the region that dominated the top results, Central Otago and Hawke's Bay were well represented too. Aromatic varietals performed well in the competition, with two Rieslings and one Gewürztraminer winning Platinum medals; Black Rabbit Riesling by Ceres,

Winemakers Collection Sweet Agnes Riesling by Seidfried and Spy Valley's Single Vineyard Gewürztraminer. Pinot Noir was the second most lauded varietal in the competition from New Zealand, winning one Best in Show and four Gold medals, but other red wines were recognised, with Waimarama's Emigao Cabernet Sauvignon and Saint Clair's Pioneer Block 17 Plateau Cabernet-Merlot both winning Gold medals.

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. Neighbouring Australia amassed an impressive total of 804 medals, however with over 1000+ entries to the competition, they submitted over double New Zealand's 471 entries.

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

**-ENDS-**

### **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).