

Decanter World Wine Awards 2018 – Results Press Release – South America

Argentina and Chile outperform the United States in the world's largest wine competition, as South American submissions to the 2018 Decanter World Wine Awards reveal diversity of wine production in the continent

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.

Argentina and Chile both outperformed North America to take home more medals in the 2018 Decanter World Wine Awards, with Argentina receiving a greater number of Gold and above, but Chile receiving a greater number of medals overall. One Argentinian wine won a prestigious Best in Show title; Bodegas Fabre's Viñalba Gran Reservado Malbec, and 3 other Malbecs were awarded Platinum medals; Trivento Gaudeo Malbec, Finca Sopenia Synthesis Malbec and Vinyes Ocults Gran Malbec. A further 12 Malbecs won Gold medals, including the only Patagonian medal-winning wine, a Barrel Selection Malbec from H.J. Fabre. The results also showed how Argentinian wine production is diversifying, with other Gold medal winners including; Marks & Spencer's Vaglio Rosé, a blend of Malbec, Pinot Noir & Cabernet Sauvignon, a Tani Single Vineyard Cabernet Franc from Antucura and The Best Gran

Montaña Reserve Chardonnay made exclusively for UK supermarket Morrisons. Argentina's total medal tally was 378.

The 5 Platinum medal winning wines from Chile, all produced with different grape varieties, showed the range of wine production in the country, including an Outer Limits Old Roots Cinsault by Montes from the Itata Valley, traditionally a region planted with Carignan, and an Undurraga T.H. Sauvignon Blanc from the Leyda Valley. Gold medal winners include two Rieslings; Marks & Spencer exclusive Lo Abarca Riesling and Cono Sur's Single Vineyard Block No. 23 Rulos del Alto Riesling, the only medal winner from the Bío Bío Valley. The ruling Chilean reds include Sutil's Limited Release Cabernet Sauvignon, Viña Apaltagua's Grial Carmenère and a Syrah from Amayna in San Antonio. Chile's overall medal tally was 438. Other South American countries that submitted wines to the 2018 Decanter World Wine Awards were Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay. None took home any Best in Show, Platinum or Gold medals, but the potential for development in these countries is clearly there as Bolivia won 3 Silver medals, Brazil one 4 Silver medals, Peru won 1 Silver medal and Uruguay won 5 Silver 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.

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

-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).