

## **Decanter World Wine Awards 2018 – Results Press Release – Spain**

### **Sherry shines and Spanish diversity is highlighted as results are released 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, 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.

Spanish wines performed valiantly, receiving a total of 1,331 medals, the third highest total after France and Italy, including an impressive 9 Best in Show titles from across Rioja, Rías Baixas, Priorat, Sherry and Cava. The Best in Show wines included; Ex-Vite Gran Reserva Brut, a "rich, textured, deeply flavoured" Cava from Llopart, a Notas Frutales Finca Garabelos Albariño that judges found to be "a delicate yet haunting Rías Baixas of benchmark quality", and a 100% Tempranillo Grano a Grano by Ysios from Rioja with "great aerial charm and freshness". 2 Sherries also received Best in Show titles; Emilio Lustau's Almacenista Cayetano del Pino y Cia, and Hidalgo's rare Napoleon 30 Year Old VORS Amontillado.

Platinum medal winners were spread predominantly across the traditional regions of Priorat, Ribero del Duero, Rioja and Sherry, but also included wines from younger, smaller or lesser-known areas of wine production; Álvarez de Toledo's 100% Mencia

Colección de Familia Mencía from the small, northwesterly region of Bierzo, Value Platinum winner Solà Fred by Celler Masroig from the relatively young region of Montsant, and Bodegas Albalá's Marqués de Poley Palo Cortado from Montilla-Moriles, a region which produces wines similar to Sherry. Spanish Gold medal winners featured 10 wines from Sherry, including 4 by renowned producer González Byass, 7 Ribera del Duero and 7 Rioja wines, and 5 wines from Cava. This category also contained the first ever Gold medal winning wine from Lanzarote, a 1996 Antigua Moscatel Dulce from La Geria made with 100% Muscat de Alexandre, a late harvest Txacolí de Bizcaia from Gorka Izagirre and a Secastilla Garnacha from Viñas del Vero in Somontano in the foothills of the Pyrenees.

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. Italian wines were awarded over 2000 medals in the Awards; including 6 Best in Show titles and 29 Platinum medals, confirming the country's position as one of the world's most popular wine producers. 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 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).