

Decanter World Wine Awards 2018 – Results Press Release – UK

English wines sparkle in the world's largest wine competition, winning 3 Platinum medals in the 2018 Decanter World Wine Awards

The 2018 results of the Decanter World Wine Awards, 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.

As the United Kingdom's wine industry continues to grow, so does its submissions to the Decanter World Wine Awards. 2018 saw a total of 118 medal-winning wines from 138 entries, including 3 Platinum medals; Hennes Reserve Brut from East Sussex, Digby Fine English Brut from Hampshire and a Pinot Noir Rosé Brut from Camel Valley in Cornwall, who were recently the first English winery to be awarded the Royal Warrant by Her Majesty The Queen. Proving that homegrown wines only continue to improve in quality and innovation, 9 English wines received Gold medals. These include a Chardonnay and a Bacchus from Kent Estate Chapel Down, a Brut from recently launched Ashling Park in West Sussex and a vintage Blanc de Blancs from West Sussex producer Ambriel. 50 further wines were awarded Silver medals and 56 were awarded bronze giving the United Kingdom a total tally of 118 medals, a higher number than the United States who submitted nearly double the amount of wines to the competition.

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 2580. Second in the running for the most medals was Italy with 2131, 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 1331 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 Gotberý 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 producing 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](https://www.decanter.com).