

## **China continues its steady rise to success in the global wine industry Seven Gold medals awarded across red, white and rosé wine styles**

The 2019 Decanter World Wine Awards, the world's largest wine competition, sampled and judged close to 17,000 wines, entered from 57 different countries. The scale of this event emphasises the global appeal and highlights the prestige attached to receiving a coveted Decanter Medal. Wine lovers will rejoice in the knowledge that more medals have been awarded this year, continuing the trend of improving wine quality and the broader range of regions now producing wine.

China shows no signs of slowing down in its quest to produce award-winning wines for the global market. This is proven through the country's success this year, where wines from China were awarded with no less than seven Gold medals.

The most surprising win came from the **Puchang Vineyard, Rkatsiteli, 2017** which was awarded one of the seven Gold medals. Rkatsiteli is a Georgian grape variety and is highly unusual in China, this wine is made from 70% Rkatsiteli and 30% Riesling.

Notably, the **Puchang Vineyard, Rkatsiteli, 2017** was one of the two organic wines from China to win Gold, the other - **Ho-Lan Soul Organic Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2015** comes from Helan Mountain East.

A Chinese rosé, **The Chateau Changyu Moser XV, Moser Legend Blanc de Noir Cabernet Sauvignon, 2018** was awarded a Gold medal, completing the haul and showcasing the quality across red, white and rosé wines in China this year.

As a relatively new player in the global wine market, China is fast putting itself on the map as a rounded producer of quality.

Poh Tiong Ch'ng, the Regional Chair for Asia comments: "This year the competition has seen a wealth of quality Chinese wines entered from across the country and in a variety of styles; white, rosé, sweet and red wines. After carving itself a place on the wine map a few years ago, Ningxia in north-central China continues to produce exciting and quality wines and truly excelled in this year's competition. The region won six out of the country's seven Gold medals and 60 medals in total."

Now in its 16<sup>th</sup> year, 2019 has seen a rise in successes from lesser known wine producing regions such as Eastern Europe, China and Mexico. Classic regions in France, the USA, and Australia once again performed well.

China was the best performing country in Asia, beating India, Japan and Thailand, with a huge 45% of wines entered awarded with a medal. Looking to the Silver medals too, China scooped 40, almost double what the other countries picked up between them.

Co-chair of the awards, Michael Hill Smith MW comments "2019 has yet again seen some exciting wines with revelations coming out of Greece, Madeira and China. The Decanter World Wine Awards really helps producers to raise their profile internationally and for consumers faced with the prospect of such choice; choosing a bottle with a DWWA sticker on it, particularly a Gold or Platinum should reassure them that the wine has been through a rigorous judging process, against much competition and you can trust the quality. With more education on wine so widely available nowadays, and plenty more opportunities to travel, now really is the time to have an interest in wine."

## ENDS

For further information on the Decanter World Wine Awards please visit  
<https://www.decanter.com/decanter-awards/>

### Notes to Editors

Launched in 2004, the Decanter World Wine Awards is the world's largest wine competition. The 2019 edition saw a panel of over 280 judges from 30 countries, including 70 Masters of Wine and 23 Master Sommeliers.

In 2018 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 3 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](http://decanter.com).

Please note that the full results of the 2019 competition will be announced on [decanter.com](http://decanter.com) on Tuesday 28 May.

