

## France dominates the Decanter World Wine Awards *Best performing country globally*

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.

France continued to dominate the awards with stunning quality hailing from Burgundy, Champagne, the Rhône and Provence. During the week-long event, over 280 of the world's top wine experts tasted and debated the merits of each bottle entered. Only the top 50 were awarded the highly sought-after accolade of "Best in Show" - French wines collected 13 of these, of which four came from Burgundy.

**Château de Meursault** was awarded two Best in Show for **Les Charmes Dessus, 2017** and **Clos des Epenots, 2017** whilst **Christian Moreau Père et Fils** won Best in Show for **Le Clos 2017**. **Domaine de la Vougeraie 2016** was the fourth wine from Burgundy awarded.

With interest in wine investment at an all-time high, the quality of the 2017 vintages in Burgundy justifies its label of one of the most expensive wine real estates per hectare.

Jeannie Cho-Lee MW, Regional Chair for Burgundy comments on Burgundy's success: "This year has been a real turnaround for the region. The whites are sensational, delicious and lively and we're seeing surprising wines from the villages that are being awarded golds, usually you would expect that from the bigger regions."

Champagne was awarded 15 Gold medals, an increase on last year, with big names such as Moët & Chandon, Piper Heidsieck and Pommery claiming success alongside smaller producers including Fallet Dart and Tillet.

Just in time for the summer, the **La Suffrene Bandol Rosé 2018** from Provence won a **Best in Show**, delighting judges with its freshness and balance.

Now in its 16<sup>th</sup> year, the 2019 Decanter World Wine Awards has seen 148 wines from across the world awarded with a Platinum medal and 480 with a Gold. This year 74% of wines entered were awarded with a medal compared to 66% in 2018, highlighting the ongoing efforts wine producers put in to improve their offer each year.

In other results, Alsace, Bordeaux and the Languedoc each won a Best in Show, with Alsace and the Languedoc also scooping a plethora of Platinum medals, boasting eight between them.

Across the channel, English wines had another **hugely** successful year, with three of the top 50 wines globally coming from England. Two wineries scooped the ultimate award of **Best in Show**. **Chapel Down** won for not one but two of its wines, the **Kit's Coty Chardonnay 2016** and **Kit's Coty Coeur De Cuvée 2014**. In West Sussex, **Wiston Estate** won Best in Show for its **Blanc de Blancs Brut**. Entries from the UK were up 10% this year compared to 2018 with 145 wines submitted. In addition to the three Best in Show, four Platinum, four Gold and 85 Silver medals were awarded.

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.

