

New Zealand takes home 13% more medals in 2019 at The Decanter World Wine Awards

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.

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" of which wines from New Zealand collected three of these alongside three Platinum medals and 18 Gold medals.

Best in Show awards went to **Villa Maria's Single Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc 2018**, **John Martin Pinot Noir 2017** by **Te Kairanga** and **Craggy Range** for its **Te Kahu Merlot-Cabernet Sauvignon-Cabernet Franc-Petit Verdot-Malbec 2016**.

Interestingly, the sole Sauvignon Blanc representative in the Best In Show class this year comes from Marlborough rather than any of the key Northern Hemisphere sites, but judges loved the way in which this was not necessarily obvious from its profile. Described as a 'simply great Sauvignon from an outstanding site' judges were seduced by its charm.

Last year the Best in Show NZ Pinot Noir came from Bannockburn in Central Otago; this year the laurels go to the North Island, with a stylish and deftly crafted example from Martinborough. Described as 'a powerfully aromatic wine, with lots of ripe raspberry and mulberry scents lifting from the glass'.

Proving that the North Island's Gimblett Gravels region is not just renowned for world class Bordeaux varietal blends, Gold medals were also picked up for white wines made from Chardonnay (**Trinity Hill Chardonnay 2017**) and even Viognier (**Saint Clair Estate Selection Viognier 2018**).

Michael Hill Smith 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."

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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.

Please note that the full results of the 2019 competition will be announced on decanter.com on Tuesday 28 May.

