

South Africa scoops impressive medal haul at the 2019 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.

Wines from South Africa won a total of 494 medals including six Platinum and 20 Gold medals.

Stellenbosch was the best performing region, taking home three of the country's Platinum medals for the **Beyerskloof Faith 2014**, the **Tokara Director's Reserve 2016** and **Nicolas van der Merwe Syrah 2017**. The other Platinum winning wines came from the Western Cape (**Le Lude Vintage Cuvée Brut, 2012**), Swartland (**Swartland Winery Bush Vine Chenin Blanc, 2017**) and Constantia (**Constantia Glen Five, 2015**)

In the Gold medal haul Paul Cluver, DeMorgenzon and Uva Mira were the producers to come out on top, from the Elgin and Stellenbosch regions respectively. Bottles to note from these producers are, **Paul Cluver Riesling 2018**, **DeMorgenzon Reserve Chardonnay** and **Uva Mira Mountain Vineyards Single Tree Chardonnay 2017**. Two sweet wines also won Gold from the regions of Elgin (**Paul Cluver Noble Late Harvest Riesling, 2017**) and Constantia (**Klein Constantia Vin de Constance, 2015**) respectively.

In terms of wine styles, white wines dominated the Platinum and Gold medal winners – with Chardonnay, Chenin Blanc, Sauvignon Blanc, Riesling and Muscat de Frontignan all featuring. For the reds, these consisted of the classic Bordeaux varietals of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Merlot as well as Shiraz and South Africa's native Pinotage.

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.

