

Argentina and Chile lead the way in South America in impressive wins at the Decanter World Wine Awards
Red wine dominates the top medals

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.

Entries from South America were up from Argentina, Brazil, Columbia and Uruguay, showing the widening diversity across the countries. The stand-out winner was Argentina, with 12% more wines awarded with a medal than in 2018. One Best in Show was awarded for the **La Luz del Vino, Iluminado Vinos de la Luz Single Vineyard Malbec, 2015**. Alongside this, 16 Gold medals were awarded. Included in this was the **Zuccardi Poligonos San Pablo Malbec, 2017** and the **Bodegas Etchart Gran Linaje Torrontes, 2018**.

Chile followed closely in Argentina's success, picking up five Platinum medals, two of which were produced by **Undurraga** for its **T.H. Syrah, 2015** and **T.H. Cabernet Sauvignon, 2016**. Chilean wines also scooped 15 Gold medals one more than in 2018.

Elsewhere, Brazil saw an increase of 20 medals including eight Silver, four more than in 2018. Uruguay also picked up more medals this year with two more Silver medals than last year.

Alejandro Iglesias, a judge on the South American panel commented: "We have tasted some really exotic wines from South America this year, it's very exciting. I love to discover new wines and flavours, sharing knowledge with the rest of the panel. What is particularly interesting this year from Argentina, is the amount of great quality white wines coming from a traditionally red wine producing country. I think this is going to be a big trend."

Now in its 16th 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.

Co-chair of the awards, Michael Hill Smith MW comments "2019 has yet again seen some exciting wines with revelations coming out of Greece, Old 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.

