

Spain reigns in The Decanter World Wine Awards *Sherry and Cava rule*

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.

Spain had a stellar year, with both Spain and the Sherry category together, their joint wins see a 10% rise in medals year-on-year, with eight Best in Show, 20 Platinum medals and 43 Gold medals amongst the haul.

Of the eight Best in Show awards, two of those were awarded to Sherries produced by **Lustau, the Almacenista Antonio Caballero y Sobrinos Del Castillo Amontillado NV** and the **30 Years Old V.O.R.S.**

Cava took home three Platinum medals, two of those came from producer **Pere Ventura** for its **Tresor Cuvée Gran Reserva Brut 2014** and **Vintage Gran Reserva Brut 2014** respectively. The third was won by **Gramona** for its **Celler Batlle Brut 2009**.

In other regions, Rioja produced a Best in Show with the **El Coto Coto de Imaz 2012** whilst three Platinum medals were awarded to **Bodegas Martínez Alesanco Garnacha 2016**, **Bodegas de Familia Burgo Viejo Palacio de Primavera 2015** and **La Rioja Alta Viña Arana 2012**. Catalunya's DO Conca de Barberà also produced a Best in Show with the **Torres, Grans Muralles 2014**.

Fine wines from other regions awarded Best in Show came from Priorat, Rias Baixas and Castilla y Leon. An interesting win went to **Ramón do Casar Nobre Treixadura 2017**, from Ribeiro in North West Spain, which also collected the top Best in Show Award.

Co-Chair and Spanish wine and Sherry expert Sarah Jane Evans MW comments: "I am very excited by the quality of wines that have been entered by Spanish wineries this year. Sherry and Cava continue to impress, helping to continue driving the trend for these styles forward."

Now in its 16th 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.

During the week-long event, over 280 of the world's top wine experts tasted and debated the merits of each bottle entered. Only a total of 50 (a mere 0.3% of all wines entered) were awarded the highly sought-after accolade of "Best in Show". A further 148 wines were awarded with a Platinum medal and 480 with 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, 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.

