

**The UK wine industry booms as the
Decanter World Wine Awards reveal a record-breaking year
Three wines take home the top accolade of Best in Show**

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.

The UK wine industry 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**.

The results highlight Britain's increasing influence on the global wine industry. As a nation of wine drinkers, this year's awards pay homage to the UK for continuing to produce some of the best quality wines that are improving year on year, having been honored with three Best in Show medals compared to none in 2018. This is an exciting time as the thriving wine industry continues to create jobs and further adds to the British economy.

West Sussex winery, **Wiston Estate** won Best in Show for its **Blanc de Blancs Brut 2011**. **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**. **Chapel Down** also picked up a Platinum medal for its **Kit's Coty Bacchus 2017** and a Gold medal for its **Kit's Coty Blanc De Blancs 2014**.

The three other Platinum medals awarded to English wines went to boutique grower High Weald, Fox & Fox for its **Tradition Brut Blanc de Noirs 2014**, Kent's Squerryes' **Exclusive Vintage Reserve Brut 2014** and Charles Palmer vineyards, for its **Blanc de Blancs Brut 2014**. Two Gold medals were won by Cornwall's **Camel Valley** for its **Bacchus Dry 2018** and its **Pinot Noir Rosé Brut 2016**.

The UK's major retailers scooped awards including Morrisons for its **The Best, Chablis 1er Cru, Burgundy 2013**, RRP £15 which won a **Platinum**, Asda's **The Wine Atlas Fetească Regală, Romania 2018**, RRP £5.25 and the **Saint Clair James Sinclair Sauvignon Blanc, New Zealand** which is available at M&S RRP £15, both picked up **Gold** medals.

In other results, the 16th Decanter World Wine Awards 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. In addition, Sherry and Madeira performed strongly with six Best in Show awards, 15 Platinum and 27 Gold medals awarded between both fortified styles.

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.

