

Decanter World Wine Awards toasts the winners of 2019 Record level of medals awarded across the global wine industry

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.

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.

The UK wine industry had another **hugely** successful year, with seven of the top 50 wines globally coming from England. Two wineries scooped the ultimate award of **Best in Show**. **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**. In West Sussex, **Wiston Estate** won Best in Show for its **Blanc de Blancs Brut 2011**. Entries from the UK were up 10% this year compared to 2018 with 145 wines submitted. In addition to the three Best in Show, four Platinum, four Gold and 85 Silver medals were awarded.

Other result highlights from the 2019 Decanter World Wine Awards include:

- **France** continued to dominate the awards with stunning quality hailing from Burgundy, Champagne, the Rhône and Provence. French wines collected 13 Best in Show, of which four came from Burgundy
- Standing out from the crowd in **Italy** was the **Cenatiempo Kalimera**, a single varietal made using the indigenous Biancolella grape, hailing from the island of Ischia. This wine was awarded Best in Show for its 2017 vintage
- **China** shows no signs of slowing down in its quest to produce award-winning wines for the global market. This is proven through the country's success this year, winning no less than seven Gold medals
- The most surprising win out of China came from the **Puchang Vineyard, Rkatsiteli, 2017** which was awarded one of the seven Gold medals. Rkatsiteli is a Georgian grape variety and is highly unusual in China, this wine is made from 70% Rkatsiteli and 30% Riesling
- **Mexico** put itself on the map with its most successful year ever, with a 46% medal increase since 2018. Mexican wines took home two Gold medals vs. 0 in 2018, one of which was awarded for an unusual Nebbiolo blend

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.

