

The USA increases its medal haul at The Decanter World Wine Awards 2019
Up 32% on medal wins year-on-year

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.

During the week-long event, over 280 of the world's top wine experts tasted and debated the merits of each bottle entered. Only the top 50 were awarded the highly sought-after accolade of "Best in Show" – with wines from the USA collecting two of these – one up on 2018 - for **Cornerstone Cellars Benchlands Cabernet Sauvignon, 2015** from California and Three **Sticks Price Family Estates Pinot Noir, 2017** also from California.

The USA also picked up an impressive five Platinum medals at this year's awards, compared to just one awarded in 2018. California reigned supreme again as all five wines were produced in the golden state.

Wines from Oregon, Washington State and California took home a huge 18 Gold medals between them compared to just 10 in 2018, a real testament to the country's ongoing strive for quality in its wines. **Domaine Serene** in Oregon was awarded five of these for its **Barrel 23 Pinot Noir, 2016**, the **Evenstad Reserve Chardonnay, 2016**, the **Winery Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir, 2015** the **Evenstad Reserve Pinot Noir, 2016** and **Clos de Lune Vineyard Chardonnay, 2016**.

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, 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.

