



## Winners of Asia's most prestigious and trusted wine competition announced

**Full results** of Decanter Asia Wine Awards 2019 – Asia's most prestigious and trusted wine competition – have been announced and published on [Decanter.com](https://www.decanter.com) (30 September), the world's leading wine media brand.

Over 50 top wine experts from across Asia judged the eighth annual competition with a mission to evaluate entries on behalf of their local consumers. The list of results includes full wine details, medals and points awarded, stockist information and descriptive tasting notes.

A total of **3,155 wines from 34 countries** were tasted in Hong Kong at the Decanter Asia Wine Awards 2019 (DAWA 2019), an increase from the 2018 competition. Since the competition launched in 2012, this is only the second time that 20 wines have been awarded 'Best in Show' – the competition's highest accolade – making up a mere 0.6% of all wines tasted.

DAWA 2019 vice-chair and first Asian Master of Wine Jeannie Cho Lee said, "There are three unique aspects of DAWA that I see in Asia that other competitions do not have. One is the level of professionalism and the attention to detail about the conditions, the pace and the way that the wines are served, poured and judged. Two is really the high professionalism of the judges, and this has been for the past eight years. It's always been one of the stringent requirements so it's a very special thing for all the judges to gather here together. The third thing is the diversity of wines that we see in Hong Kong. There are a few other wine competitions but none come as close to having the extensive range of wines and levels. I think **it's really the best competition out there in Asia.**"

This year's competition was judged by 56 wine experts, including Master Sommeliers and Masters of Wine, from 14 countries, many based in Asia.

## The Results

**Australia and France** shared the limelight for the most Best in Show wins, each securing five medals for this top accolade.

DWWA 2019 vice-chair Michael Hill Smith MW commented, "Australia has always been strong here, it's always done well here, but it's also exciting to see the rise of China and other wines and that's part of the fun of doing wine competitions like this."

**China** noticeably improved from the 2018 competition with more entries from more wine regions, and an increase in overall medals won, including a 10% increase in Silver medals. This year two wines received Gold medals – a Marselan from Ningxia and intriguingly, a Vidal icewine from Liaoning.

Less anticipated, **Georgia and Greece** both secured top spots in the Best in Show category. Georgia impressed with two Best in Show award-winning wines from lesser-known grape varieties Saperavi and Kisi and Greece equally enthralled with a Shiraz Viognier blend from Evia in Central Greece.

**India** made headlines with a first-ever DAWA Gold medal win for Grover Zampa's 2018 Vijay Amritraj Reserve Collection Viognier from Maharashtra. As the tasting notes read, Judges described this as, "How Viognier should taste! Deliciously spicy with concentrated ripe fruit flavours and a viscous, rounded texture. Lush and



long with a bittersweet edge to the finish.” Four wines were awarded Silver medals and seven Bronze from India – an increase from a total of just seven award-winning wines last year.

Aligning with positive results from the 2019 Decanter World Wine Awards, the **UK** also received its first-ever Gold win at DAWA for Nyetimber’s 2013 Blanc de Blancs sparkling wine.

**Japan** impressed with a Gold medal win for Ajimu’s 2017 Chardonnay Extra Brut sparkling wine. Not only is this Japan’s first DAWA Gold medal since 2015, it is also the only award-winning wine from this year’s competition to come from Kyushu; the 14 other Japanese medal winners are all from the Yamanashi and Nagano prefectures.

While **Spain** did not win a Best in Show medal last year, this year made up for it with three wines winning this top accolade – including two from Ribera del Duero and one from Jerez. Tempranillo did notably well, with more than 100 Spanish wines made from the variety winning a medal in this year’s competition. As DWWA 2019 vice-chair Andrew Jefford attested, “This year’s DAWA was a great one for Spain’s Tempranillo, as a look at our other Gold and Platinum medals will confirm: we had ample, multi-region Tempranillo choice as we came to pick our top twenty Best in Show.”

**Italy** received two top accolades for Best in Show with wines from Trentino-Alto Adige and Tuscany. Cantina Bolzano’s Best in Show win for the 2016 Prestige Line Lagrein Riserva from Alto Adige received particularly high praise from Andrew Jefford who commented, “Lists of Northern Italy’s greatest grape varieties often unaccountably omit Lagrein, yet one look, sniff and taste of this midnight-dark wine will send drinkers scrambling to reassess their priorities. This Alto Adige star shows that Italy’s Alpine corridor can compete on level terms with Piedmont, Lombardy and Collio.”

The **USA** made an appearance on the Best in Show list for Darioush’s 2016 Signature Cabernet Sauvignon from Napa Valley.

**Portugal** also received this top accolade with Henriques & Henriques’ 2001 Sercial from Madeira.

## Where to taste the DAWA winners

New winners will be promoted at both trade and consumer events this year in China and South Korea.

Wine lovers will have the opportunity to taste a selection of 2019 award-winning wines in **Shanghai and Seoul** this winter, including the [Decanter Shanghai Fine Wine Encounter on Saturday 16 November](#). DAWA wines will also be featured at retail stores, restaurants and hotels across Asia.

## About DAWA Judging Week

Seven vice-chairs oversaw this year’s competition. The chairmanship included returning vice-chairs Ch’ng Poh Tiong, Sarah Jane Evans MW, Andrew Jefford, Jeannie Cho Lee MW, Li Demei, Michael Hill-Smith MW and new DAWA 2019 vice-chair, Hiroshi Ishida.

Six new judges joined this year’s judging panel, made up of more than 50 top wine experts from across Asia and beyond. New DAWA 2019 judges included Darius Allyn MS, Jacky Luk, Derek Li, Alan Tse, Wataru Iwata and Andrea Martinisi. Many judges work at top restaurant and drinks establishments in Asia.



Judges gathered together in Hong Kong from 3-6 September in Hong Kong to blind taste wines through organised flights.

## How the wines are tasted

Decanter gives every single wine tasted an individual score.

Wines that meet the required quality are given a seal of approval (commended), or a bronze, silver, or gold medal. All gold medal-winning wines within each category are re-tasted and a platinum medal is awarded to the best wine in each category.

Each platinum medal winner from around the world is then pitted against each other to win the ***Best in Show*** accolade.

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For further information, please contact <a href="mailto:marketing@decanter.com">marketing@decanter.com</a>
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## **Notes to Editors**

### **The Decanter brand comprises of:**

- *Decanter* magazine is read in 99 countries
- [Decanter Events](#), an annual programme of world-class events for consumers and trade
- [Decanter.com](#), over 1.2 million page views per month
- [DecanterChina.com](#), a dedicated bilingual platform for the Chinese wine market, reaches 80K unique users
- [Decanter Premium](#), an online subscription service established in 2017 with 1,000+ wine reviews published each month
- Decanter World Wine Awards, the world's largest and most prestigious wine competition
- Decanter Asia Wine Awards, launched in 2012, is the most trusted wine competition in Asia

### **About DAWA**

- Launched in 2012 by *Decanter* magazine, 2019 is the eighth edition of the competition
- All wines are judged blind in the best possible tasting environment and each wine is discussed on an individual basis by the panel
- [Find and taste DAWA winning wines](#)
- Kindly sponsored by Riedel glasses and San Pellegrino and Acqua Panna water

### **DAWA 2019 Results**

- 20 Best in Show medals
- 18 Platinum medals
- 74 Gold medals
- 618 Silver medals
- 1,472 Bronze medals

### **DAWA 2019 Best in Show winners:**

- Jacob's Creek, Lyndale Chardonnay, Adelaide Hills, South Australia, Australia 2018
- St Hugo, Cabernet Sauvignon, Coonawarra, South Australia, Australia 2016
- Bream Creek, Reserve Pinot Noir, East Coast, Tasmania, Australia 2017
- McGuigan, Personal Reserve Bainton Shiraz, Hunter Valley, New South Wales, Australia 2017
- Capel Vale, Whispering Hill Single Vineyard Shiraz, Mount Barker, Western Australia, Australia 2018
- Ogier, Clos de l'Oratoire des Papes, Châteauneuf-du-Pape AOP, Rhône, France 2018
- Rare, Brut, Champagne AOP, France 2006
- Piper-Heidsieck, Essentiel Blanc de Blancs Extra Brut, Champagne AOP, France NV
- La Cave des Vignerons de Pfaffenheim, Gewurztraminer, Grand Cru Steinert AOP, Alsace, France 2017
- Joseph Castan, Château Croix d'Aumèdes Cuvée Réserve, Corbières AOP, Languedoc-Roussillon, France 2018
- Chelti, Qvevri Saperavi, Kakheti, Georgia 2015
- Kart-Valley, Qvevri Amber Kisi, Kakheti AC, Kakheti, Georgia 2017
- Avantis Estate, Agios Chronos, Evia PGI, Central Greece, Greece 2015
- Cantina Bolzano, Prestige Line Lagrein Riserva, Alto Adige / Südtirol DOC, Italy 2016
- San Felice, Il Grigio, Chianti Classico Riserva DOCG, Tuscany, Italy 2015
- Henriques & Henriques, Sercial, Madeira, Portugal 2001
- Osborne, V.O.R.S Capuchino, Palo Cortado V.O.R.S, Sherry, Spain NV
- Alejandro Fernández, Tinto Pesquera, Gran Reserva, Ribera de Duero DO, Spain 2009
- Bodegas Linaje Garsea, Archangelus Gabrihel, Ribera de Duero DO, Spain 2014



- Darioush, Signature Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley AVA, California, USA 2016