

Asia celebrates victory at the Decanter World Wine Awards 2020 as China wins Platinum, India quadruples medals and Indonesia makes its debut

After a challenging year for the global wine industry, there's finally reason to raise a glass!

22nd September 2020: There's perhaps never been a time the global wine industry has been so hard hit, but the world's largest and most influential wine competition is giving reason to celebrate with the release of its 2020 results. After completing judging under strict Covid safety guidelines that included innovations such as proximity lanyards and bespoke disposable spittoons, the Decanter World Wine Awards has today announced its 2020 winners.

Now in its 17th year, the 2020 competition has seen a rise in successes from lesser-known wine producing regions such as the South & Eastern Mediterranean and the Balkans, which showcased their impressive quality and value for money. Classic regions in France, Italy, Spain, the USA, and Australia once again performed well.

During the judging month, 116 expert wine judges including 37 Masters of Wine and nine Master Sommeliers, tasted and debated the merits of 16,518 wines from 56 countries. Asia increased its overall medal collection in 2020, with 183 wines awarded, including an impressive one Platinum, four Gold, 53 Silver and 125 Bronze.

China showcased its ability to produce world-class sweet wine, particularly icewine, of which 13 medals were awarded, including one Platinum for **Ji'an City Baite Wine Co Manor Icewine 2016** from the Jilin region, in addition to three Gold and six Silver medals. The Liaoning region in Northeast China produced five award-winning icewines, two Gold (**Chateau Changyu Black Diamond Icewine Valley Vidal 2017**, **Liaoning Sanhe Cailonglin Vidal Icewine 2013**) and three Silver medals (**Chateau Changyu Golden Diamond Icewine Valley Vidal 2017**, **Liaoning Sanhe Cailonglin Vidal Icewine 2014**, **Liaoning Sanhe Cailonglin Vidal Icewine 2016**).

Outside the sweet wine category, China collected Silver medals from a variety of regions, including Hebei, Shanxi, Shandong, Xinjiang and Ningxia. The excellent value **Changyu Long Tailed Cat 2019** from the Yantai sub-region of Shandong picked up a Silver medal for a Cabernet Sauvignon/Syrah blend. Whilst the **Domaine Chandon** vineyard in Ningxia was awarded a Bronze medal for its **NV Sparkling Rosé**. Xinjiang's **Puchang Vineyard** continued its success in 2020, collecting a Silver medal for the **Saperavi 2016**, a native Georgian grape variety. **Taiwan** entered one wine that won Silver, the **Weightstone Musann Blanc 2018**, a still dry white wine made from 100% Musann Blanc – a variety unique to Taiwan.

Elsewhere in Asia, Japan is celebrating one Gold, 15 Silver and 28 Bronze medals, with the Gold awarded to **Niki Hills Yuhzome Zweigeltrebe 2018** from Hokkaido, a red wine made from 100%

Zweigelt. Another medal-winning wine from Hokkaido came from **Camel Farm Winery**, picking up a Silver for its **Private Reserve Pinot Noir 2018**. Japan's sparkling wines are also becoming increasingly recognised on the global stage, collecting three Silver medals, one of which was awarded to **Takahata Happo Chardonnay Brut 2015** from the Yamagata prefecture.

India quadrupled its medal-winning wines success, collecting three Silver and nine Bronze. **Sula Vineyards** in the Maharashtra region was awarded two of the Silver medals, one for a medium-dry still white wine **Dindori Reserve Viognier 2019**, the other a sweet wine, **Late Harvest Chenin Blanc 2019**. **Domaine Chandon** collected the third Silver for its **Brut NV**.

New countries in Asia also entered the awards for the first-time, including one wine submitted by **South Korea**, and **Indonesia**, which picked up a Silver medal for a dry Muscat and two Bronze for its sparkling wines – all hailing from the **Sababay Winery** in Bali.

Andrew Jefford, Co-Chair says, "The Decanter World Wine Awards really helps producers to raise their profile internationally. It can do the same for wine-producing regions and nations, too. Our judging system - including re-tasting of all Golds, with possible promotion to Platinum - is something we are very proud of. We explain it as often as we can. So, when consumers see a DWWA sticker on a bottle, be it Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze, they can be reassured that the wine in question has been judged by regional experts and specialists before receiving its medal. We discuss, we argue, we fight it out...that's all part of the judging fun. Even with social distancing! But that's also how you get the results which have made the DWWA an international wine benchmark."

After much uncertainty on whether the awards could take place this year, Decanter was meticulous in its approach and innovation to ensure the judging went ahead, introducing strict safety measures that were put in place, including temperature checks on the door, PPE for all judges and staff, disposable spittoons with antibacterial powder that solidifies with liquid and is later incinerated with other hazardous waste, proximity tags worn on lanyards that vibrate when you are less than two metres from another person, and isolated tasting areas with designated facilities.

Co-Chair Sarah Jane Evans MW comments, "The competition has been terrific, it has been a perfect atmosphere to taste and judge this year. After months of lockdown and uncertainty everyone has been delighted to be back again, working together, sharing ideas and thoughts, and above all, focused on picking out the great wines from this year. There have been some wonderful discoveries. As ever the Best in Show day was tough, narrowing down to 50 top wines".

A full list of winners can be viewed online at <http://awards.decanter.com/DWWA>

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The Decanter World Wine Awards Co-chairs and key spokespeople are available for interviews, please use the contact details below to arrange.

Notes to Editors

Asia increased its medal success in 2020, collecting six more medals than in 2019 and amassing an impressive haul of one Platinum, four Gold, 53 Silver and 125 Bronze. China achieved a total of 120 medals, up 25% from 2019, including one Platinum, three Gold, 34 Silver and 82 Bronze.

Japan was awarded one Gold, 15 Silver and 28 Bronze medals, whilst India quadrupled its medal success, collecting 12 medals including three Silver and nine Bronze.

Launched in 2004, the Decanter World Wine Awards is the world's largest and most influential wine competition.

The 2020 awards introduced new innovations, including bespoke disposable spittoons and proximity lanyards, to ensure Covid safety guidelines were adhered to in Decanter's first socially distanced judging month, held at the Future Plc offices in Canary Wharf. A panel of 116 expert wine judges blind-tasted 16,518 wines from 56 countries over four consecutive weeks in August.

Only a total of 50 wines were awarded the highly sought-after accolade of "Best in Show", and the four-week tasting culminated in 178 Platinum, 537 Gold, 5,234 Silver and 7,508 Bronze medals being given out.

Full details on the judging process can be found on www.decanter.com/decanter-awards/.

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