The quality and diversity of Italian winemaking is celebrated at the Decanter World Wine Awards 2020

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. Italy demonstrated its breadth of quality wine production, collecting 2,765 medals from across its regions. This included eight Best in Show, 37 Platinum, 82 Gold, 969 Silver and 1,669 Bronze medals.

Two Best in Show medals came via the Alto Adige region from wines produced by the lesser-known grape varieties of Kerner and Lagrein. Standing out from the crowd was the **Cantina Valle Isarco Aristos Kerner 2018** from the Valle Isarco sub-region. The other was won by **K.Martini & Sohn Maturum Riserva Lagrein 2017** from Südtirol in Alto Adige. In addition, seven Platinum, five Gold and 36 Silver medals were awarded to the wider region of Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol.

Piedmont once again performed strongly winning three Best in Show medals from the world-renowned regions of Barolo (**La Bìòca Aculei 2016** and **L'Astemia Pentita 2016**) and Barbaresco (**Vite Colte Spezie Barbaresco Riserva 2010**). The region also doubled its number of Platinum and added seven more Gold medals to those received in 2019.

Tuscany collected an impressive Best in Show, nine Platinum and 21 Gold medals; the **Argiano 2015 from Brunello di Montalcino** picked up the top prize, impressing the judges once more with classic wines of quality and style.

Elsewhere in Italy, Sicily celebrated success including one Best in Show medal for **Barone di Villagrande Contrada Villagrande Superiore 2017**, a white wine from the volcanic region of Etna. Amongst the haul were one Platinum, three Gold and 54 Silver medals.

To complete the quintet of successful regions, Umbria picked up a Best in Show medal for the **Moretti Omero Sagrantino di Montefalco 2016.**

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

Italy took home a total of 2,765 medals, with eight Best in Show, 37 Platinum, 82 Gold, 969 Silver, 1669 Bronze. Piedmont and Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol regions both excelled, with Piedmont achieving three

Best in Show and Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol, two. The remaining Best in Show medals went one each to Umbria, Sicily and Tuscany.

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/.