



France triumphs at the Decanter World Wine Awards 2021

When it comes to top medals once again France leads the way with 15 Best in Show medals, 38 Platinums and 122 Golds, including competition-firsts for wines from the Savoie and Jura

7 JULY, LONDON: After two weeks of rigorous, and for the second year-running COVID-safe, judging in London's Canary Wharf, the results of the Decanter World Wine Awards 2021 are finally here, with French producers picking up more top medals than any other country.

Now in its 18th year, the Decanter World Wine Awards (DWWA) is the world's largest and most influential wine competition. More than 160 judges, including 44 Masters of Wine and 11 Master Sommeliers, judged 18,094 wines from 56 countries at this year's edition, making it a record year for wines tasted.

In total 2021 saw 50 Best in Show, 179 Platinum and 635 Gold medals awarded, making up 0.28%, 0.99% and 3.51% respectively of the total wines tasted.

France claimed 15 Best in Show medals, an impressive 30% of those awarded, and an increase from the 12 won in 2020, as well as 38 Platinum and 122 Gold medals - both categories celebrating year-on-year improvements. The Best in Show medals came from right across the board with strong showings from Bordeaux, Burgundy (3 medals) and Champagne and Rhône (2 medals each).

Notably the Savoie and Jura regions both won their first-ever DWWA Best in Show medals. The Roussanne-based **Domaine Charles Gonnet, Vin de Savoie Chignin-Bergeron 2020** wowed judges scoring 97 points with its 'dancing mountain freshness' and 'tender, apricot-like acidity'.

In the Jura two unique wines impressed; the **Domaine Berthet-Bondet Savagnin, Château-Chalon 2013** won a Best in Show medal and the **Domaine Badoz, Vin Jaune, Côtes du Jura 2014** awarded a Platinum - another first for the region.

There were also Best in Show and Platinum medals across Languedoc-Roussillon, Provence, Southwest France, Loire, Beaujolais and Alsace, demonstrating once again France's strength in depth.

Notable Best in Show wines included the 'deep, youthful' **Albert Bichot, Domaine du Clos Frantin Les Malconsorts, Vosne-Romanée 1er Cru 2019** from Burgundy, which thrilled every judge who tried it, and the **Charles Heidsieck, Rosé Réserve Brut NV**, a great gastronomic rosé wine with 'cavalier autumn fruits' and 'breadth and audacity of flavour'.

France's highest scoring wines all hailed from Champagne, with three Vintage Champagnes, **Champagne Legras & Haas, L.T.S. Blanc de Blancs Grand Cru 2008, Palmer & Co, Brut 2012** and **Piper-Heidsieck, Brut 2014**, scoring 98 points - just 14 wines in the entire competition received this top score.

On judging Champagne across seven days of the competition, Regional Chair Simon Field MW said: "I was excited by the overall quality and also by the diversity on offer; we were treated to some superb wines from the magnificent 2012 vintage, just limbering up, and also from 2008, already recognized as a classic. There were also fascinating and rather unusual wines, not only from unsung regions such as the Cote des Bar, but also from the almost forgotten varietals, Pinot Blanc and Arbanne amongst them.

Most of the wines, of course, were from the Non Vintage category and their quality was also impressive. One of the reasons for this was that many producers now use the superb 2018 vintage for their base wines. Conversely, however, and somewhat paradoxically, the difficult economic conditions of the last two years have also meant, logically, that some of these wines are getting a little more lees ageing, in itself generally no bad thing. A terrific experience all in all."

Andrew Jefford, DWWA Co-Chair, said, "DWWA is the world's leading wine competition. I'm absolutely thrilled to take part in it every year because having tasted in a number of other competitions I know how well it's organised, how carefully everything is done. So if you get a medal from DWWA it really is worth having and everybody respects it internationally. We get entries from every corner of the wine world, so it is as it were the closest you can get to a universal benchmark."

Visit <https://awards.decanter.com/DWWA> to view a full list of winners.

ENDS

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

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Notes to Editors

France was awarded a total of 3,185 medals, with 15 Best in Show, 38 Platinum, 122 Gold, 1,228 Silver and 1,782 Bronze.

The following wines won the 15 Best in Show medals:

- Legras & Haas, L.T.S. Blanc de Blancs Grand Cru, Champagne 2008
- Mas de la Séranne, Antonin et Louis, Languedoc Terrasses du Larzac, Languedoc-Roussillon 2018
- Xavier Mourier, Domaine de Pierre Blanche Résurgence, Condrieu, Rhône 2019
- Domaine Charles Gonnet, Vin de Savoie Chignin-Bergeron, Savoie 2020
- Janicot Vignobles, Domaine de Meriguet, Cahors 2018
- Château Pierre-Bise, Savennières-Roche aux Moines, Loire 2018
- Charles Heidsieck, Rosé Réserve Brut, Champagne NV
- Domaine Christian Moreau, Chablis Grand Cru, Burgundy 2019
- Château de la Chapelle, Blaye, Côtes de Bordeaux, Bordeaux 2018
- Château de Meursault, Clos des Epenots, Pommard 1er Cru, Burgundy 2019
- Domaine Berthet-Bondet, Château-Chalon, Jura 2013
- Château Croix des Rouzes, Pomerol, Bordeaux 2018
- Domaine Ray-Jane, Bandol, Provence 2020
- Albert Bichot, Domaine du Clos Frantin Les Malconsorts, Vosne-Romanée 1er Cru, Burgundy 2019
- LePlan-Vermeersch, RS, Côtes du Rhône Villages Plan de Dieu, Rhône 2020 (Value Best in Show)

About DWWA

Launched in 2004 and now in its 18th year, the Decanter World Wine Awards (DWWA) is the world's largest and most influential wine competition.

It is the trusted relationship that Decanter - the world's leading wine media brand - has with an international audience of both consumers and trade that sets DWWA apart from other competitions.

Sustainability is a key focus for the DWWA team. All plastic and cardboard is collected and recycled, while every bottle is crushed and remelted, ready to be remade into usable glass within 30 days. All leftover wine is also collected, recycled and sold back into the national grid as gas.

Full details on the judging process can be found [here](#).

The PPA Awards 2021

DWWA recently won *Event of the Year* at the prestigious PPA Awards 2021. More information [here](#).

About Decanter

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Engaging with wine lovers in over 100 countries around the globe, Decanter provides authoritative content, independent advice and inspirational events and competitions.

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