



## **Record-breaking year for German wines at the Decanter World Wine Awards 2021**

*Results highlight world-class German Pinot Noir and Chardonnay*

**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 Germany enjoying a record-breaking year after two producers in the country won prestigious Best in Show medals.

Results released today (7 July) reveal that a German Chardonnay and Spätburgunder (Pinot Noir) were among only 50 wines globally to win a Best in Show medal at this year's Decanter World Wine Awards (DWWA).

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.

It's the first time Germany has won two Best in Show medals in a single year at DWWA.

The winning wines also highlight German producers' ability to make world-class wines from Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, the renowned grape varieties that are closely associated with France's Burgundy region but are also prominent in other parts of the world, from New Zealand to the US West Coast.

The two German Best in Show winners are **Weingut Kreuzberg, Devonschiefer R Reserve Spätburgunder 2018** (Ahr region) and **Fritz Wassmer, Schlossberg Staufenberg Chardonnay 2018** (Baden region).

DWWA judges said in their tasting notes: “Is it possible that Germany’s future might begin to look (as the world’s climate-change challenge grows) a little more Burgundian?”

“We have to ask the question this year, as the two German wines making it into our top 50 Best in Show selection are not classic Rieslings, but a Chardonnay from Baden and a Pinot from the Ahr.”

Judges praised the Devonschiefer R Reserve’s aromatic energy alongside its soft tannins and notes of wild plums and redcurrants. It’s a wine that can also be aged for longer in the cellar. “This harmonious and beautifully vinified wine drinks very well now but doubtless has more in store.” they said.

Of the Sclossberg Staufen Chardonnay, judges said it was a remarkably refined and “long-flavoured” white wine perfect for fine dining.

German wines also won five Platinum and three Gold medals at DWWA 2021, as well as 79 Silver and 32 Bronze.

Four Platinum medals and two Gold went to dry and sweet styles of Riesling from several different regions, including Rheingau, Nahe, Franken and Pfalz.

The fifth Platinum medal was awarded to a sweet wine made from ‘Rieslaner’, a crossing of Riesling and the Silvaner grape varieties. The award went to **Weingut Hans Wirsching’s Iphöfer Julius-Echter-Berg Rieslaner, Trockenbeerenauslese 2018**; one of two Platinitums won by Franken-based Hans Wirsching at DWWA 2021.

The third Gold medal went to another Pinot Noir from the Ahr region: **Maibachfarm’s Glanzstück Spätburgunder 2018**.

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**

Germany was awarded a total of 121 medals, with two Best in Show, five Platinum, three Gold, 78 Silver and 32 Bronze.

The following wines won the two Best in Show medals:

- Fritz Waßmer, Schlossberg Staufen, Chardonnay, Baden 2018
- Weingut Kreuzberg, Devonschiefer, R Reserve Spätburgunder, Ahr 2018

### **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**

Decanter is the world's leading wine media brand with a total monthly reach in excess of 2.2 million via our print magazine, websites and social media channels.

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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