



Decanter World Wine Awards 2021 winners revealed

From 'yellow wine' to California Cabernet Sauvignon, hotly anticipated medals announced in biggest ever Decanter World Wine Awards

7 JULY, LONDON: Full results from the Decanter World Wine Awards 2021 have been released today (7 July), revealing big wins for established wine regions but also many hidden gems from producers making exciting wines across the globe.

This year marks the biggest ever Decanter World Wine Awards (DWWA), which is already the world's largest and most influential wine competition thanks to a rigorous judging process overseen by international experts.

More than 160 expert judges, including 44 Masters of Wine and 11 Master Sommeliers, tasted 18,094 wines from 56 countries at DWWA 2021, making it a record year for wines tasted.

Judging took place over two weeks in Canary Wharf, London, with strict Covid-19 safety protocols in place.

Only 50 wines, or 0.28% of those tasted, were awarded a prestigious Best in Show medal. There were also 179 Platinum and 635 Gold medals awarded, making up 0.99% and 3.51% respectively of the total wines tasted.

Spain had a particularly strong year, winning nine Best in Show medals, compared to four last year. Spanish wines also won 20 Platinum medals and 63 Golds this year.

There were also plenty of brilliant medal-winning wines from other top wine-producing countries and regions, from California to many parts of France, Italy, Australia, South Africa, Argentina, Chile and New Zealand.

DWVA has a track record of shining a spotlight on exciting, under-the-radar wines all over the wine world, too – and 2021 proved no exception.

DWVA 2021: A year of firsts

DWWA 2021 included a first Best in Show medal for a 'Vin Jaune' – or 'yellow wine' – a speciality of the Jura region of eastern France. The winning wine was **Domaine Berthet-Bondet, Château-Chalon 2013**, made from 100% Savagnin.

DWWA 2021 judges included in their tasting notes, "If you've never tried Vin Jaune, you couldn't do better than begin with this 2013.

"Pale but emphatically gold, it has aromas which evoke nuts, wild mushrooms, umami, yeast and cream, but in which some lingering sweetness of fruit survives, too (Savagnin for Vin Jaune is picked very ripe)."

There was also success in Switzerland for the Savagnin grape variety, not to be confused with the similarly named Sauvignon Blanc.

Wine cooperative St. Jodern Kellerei in the Valais region already farms some of Europe's highest vineyards, and it reached the summit of DWWA in 2021 after its **'Heida Barrique' 2019** won a Best in Show medal.

Judges said in their notes on the wine, "Heida is the name used in the high Valais (or Wallis) for Savagnin, and our judges were very impressed by the range and expressive uniqueness of Swiss Savagnin this year."

They added, "This is a refreshingly aromatic yet full-flavoured wine, striking and singular: a horn sounding in the clear Alpine air."

DWWA 2021 also saw a first Best in Show medal for France's Savoie region, awarded to a 100% Roussanne white wine from **Domaine Charles Gonnet** for the 2020 vintage.

Friuli in north-east Italy made its debut in the DWWA Best in Show winners' list, thanks to **Muzic winery's Stare Brajde 'Collio' 2019** white wine.

There were also **two Golds for Ukraine**, the first time the country has struck Gold at DWWA.

Sarah Jane Evans MW, Co-Chair at DWWA 2021, said of the results, "You know that this is something that's been through a really rigorous judging process. We're not playing at judging here. This is blind tasting. We have absolutely no idea what the wines are and we're tasting them not only in panels together where we have to each discuss and think about them deeply, but then they go up to Regional Chairs who are experts in those countries."

She added, "It's a very, very rigorous process, but it highlights fabulous wines at the end of it."

Andrew Jefford, also a 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.”

More highlights from DWWA 2021

Noteworthy highlights include two **Best in Show medals for German Pinot Noir and Chardonnay**, showcasing the country's ability to make top wines with these classic Burgundian grape varieties. A 2011-vintage **English** sparkling wine also won a Best in Show medal.

In terms of more unexpected wins, in **North America**, there was a Gold medal for a New York Sauvignon Blanc Sémillon blend produced in the North Fork of Long Island AVA, while in **Canada** Niagara Peninsula winery Hidden Bench won a Best in Show medal for its Felseck Vineyard Chardonnay 2018.

Russia won its second ever Platinum medal, while wines from **Japan** won two Platinums and four Gold medals.

Classic styles from well-known areas also performed extremely well at DWWA 2021, demonstrating why they enjoy such vaunted reputations among wine lovers.

The list of Best in Show medals includes Champagne, California Cabernet Sauvignon and Pinot Noir, Barossa Valley Shiraz and Margaret River Chardonnay from Australia, Rioja Gran Reserva from the lauded 2004 vintage, South African Cabernet Sauvignon, Vinho Verde from Portugal and Malbec from Argentina.

Excitement surrounding the Barolo 2016 vintage in Italy's Piedmont region was given a further boost after **Diego Morra's 'Monvigliero' 2016** was awarded a Best in Show medal.

In total, Italy won seven Best in Show medals, also including **Prosecco** and **Brunello di Montalcino DOCG** wines, as well as a Timorasso dry white from Piedmont and a Vin Santo di Carmignano sweet wine from Tuscany.

Some Best in Show awards went to lesser-known styles from top producer nations. New Zealand is renowned for Sauvignon Blanc but it was **Tohu's 'Whenua Matua' Chardonnay 2018** that won a Best in Show medal at DWWA 2021. Chile's **La Causa, Cinsault-País-Carignan 2019** from Itata Valley also received this top accolade.

Elsewhere, **Greece** narrowly beat its strong performance at last year's competition. A Greek Assyrtiko white wine won a Best in Show medal, and the country received six Platinum and 16 Gold medals at DWWA 2021 overall.

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

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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.

For press office enquiries please contact:

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Notes to Editors

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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