



Japan celebrates best-ever medal haul at the Decanter World Wine Awards 2021

Results highlight the depth in quality of both white and red wines being produced in Japan.

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, and Japan has plenty to celebrate having been awarded a record total of 71 medals, up an incredibly impressive 61% from 2020.

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.

Japan claimed two Platinum medals as well as four Gold, 16 Silver and 49 Bronze medals. The Platinum and Gold haul included wines from four prefectures across Japan including Yamanashi, Nagano, Yamagata and Hokkaido.

Two Yamanashi wines made from Japan's native Koshu grape won the country's Platinum medals - **Lumière, Hikari Barrel Fermented Koshu 2018** and **Shirayuri Winery, L'Orient Katsunuma Koshu 2019**.

After winning a first-ever Gold medal in 2020 for a red wine, Japan won three Golds in 2021, all hailing from different prefectures outlining the country's serious red winemaking credentials. Two of which included classic Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot blends, **Château Mercian, Mariko Omnis 2016** from Nagano and **Takahata Winery's L'Ogre Rouge Aka-Oni Majestique Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot 2017** from Yamagata, Tohoku. This was in addition to Hokkaido's **Camel Farm Winery's Private Reserve Pinot Noir 2019**, noted by judges for its 'sumptuous cherry, rosehip, raspberry and pomegranate aromatics'.

The final Gold medal went to a white wine, **Chanmoris', Kankitsu-ka Koshu 2020** from Yamanashi.

Notable praise from judges about the wines featured their 'purity and sense of place' and 'impressive, lengthy finish'.

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

Japan was awarded a record total of 71 medals, with two Platinum, four Gold, 16 Silver and 49 Bronze.

The following wines won the Platinum and Gold medals:

- Lumière, Hikari Barrel Fermented Koshu, Yamanashi, Chubu 2018 (*Platinum*)
- Shirayuri Winery, L'Orient Katsunuma Koshu, Yamanashi, Chubu 2019 (*Platinum*)
- Château Mercian, Mariko Omnis, Nagano, Chubu 2016 (*Gold*)
- Chanmoris, Kankitsu-ka Koshu, Yamanashi, Chubu 2020 (*Gold*)
- Camel Farm Winery, Private Reserve Pinot Noir, Yoichi, Hokkaido 2019 (*Gold*)
- Takahata Winery, L'Ogre Rouge Aka-Oni Majestique Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot, Yamagata, Tohoku 2017 (*Gold*)

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](#).

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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