



South Africa doubles Platinum medal haul at the Decanter World Wine Awards 2021

Following a tough year for South Africa's wine producers, DWWA 2021 results are reason to celebrate with almost 50 top medals awarded, reflecting the quality and diversity on offer in SA.

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 South Africa showcasing once again just how vibrant and relevant its wine scene is.

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.

South Africa claimed one Best in Show medal, as well as nine Platinum and 39 Gold medals - more than doubling the number of Platinum medals awarded in 2020 and winning 25% more Gold medals.

It's been a particularly tough year for South African wine producers with the country yo-yoing in and out of domestic alcohol bans tied to COVID-19 restrictions, and the industry also facing problems exporting wines to the rest of the world.

It's hoped that South Africa's impressive results at DWWA 2021 will help its country's producers. "Winning a medal at DWWA works on an international scale with wineries, especially those looking for export, being able to use it well," said DWWA judge Sarah Knowles MW.

South Africa's Best in Show medal was awarded to **Cederberg** whose **Five Generations Cabernet Sauvignon, 2018** thrilled judges with its freshness, purity and length. "South African Cabernet Sauvignon is always a hotly fought category

in the Decanter World Wine Awards, and this year was no exception,” said the panel. “The wine which emerged with the laurel wreath and a spot in our top 50 Best In Show is one of the most remotely sited in the country, hidden away in the high Cederberg.”

Platinum medal wines came from across the Western Cape with wines from Stellenbosch, Constantia, Bankhoek and Paarl all receiving 97 points, including a Chenin Blanc and a Pinotage, representing both of South Africa’s signature grapes at this high level.

DWWA judge Victoria Mason, and Waitrose Wine Buyer for South Africa, said: “Cabernet and Chardonnay have a real firm foothold and we know that the South Africans are making wines that are on a par with the rest of the world, but we’re seeing some super exciting Rhône blends from both the red and the white spheres. We’re also starting to see other varieties coming through. Portuguese varieties, even Greek varieties, and I think that the role these play in blends in terms of freshness and texture is really exciting and is one to watch for the future.”

Jeremy Lithgow MW, also on the SA judging team, added: “The standard was really high. That South African day of judging was really good. We found some nice wines in everything.”

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.

For press office enquiries please contact:

marketing@decanter.com
decanter@clementinecom.com

Notes to Editors

South Africa was awarded a total of 605 medals, with one Best in Show, nine Platinum, 39 Gold, 379 Silver and 177 Bronze.

The following wines won the one Best in Show and nine Platinum medals:

- Cederberg, Five Generations Cabernet Sauvignon, Cederberg 2018 (*Best in Show*)
- KWV, The Mentors Perold, Coastal Region 2017 (*Platinum*)
- Quoin Rock, Black Series Brut, Western Cape 2014 (*Platinum*)
- Peter Falke, Signature Kailani, Stellenbosch 2017 (*Platinum*)
- Bellingham, The Bernard Series Old Vine Chenin Blanc, Coastal Region 2019 (*Platinum*)
- Glen Carlou, Collection Red Blend, Simonsberg-Paarl, Paarl 2018 (*Platinum*)
- Constantia Glen, Five, Constantia, Cape Town 2017 (*Platinum*)
- Warwick, Trilogy, Simonsberg-Stellenbosch, Stellenbosch 2018 (*Platinum*)
- Delaire Graff, Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, Banghoek, Stellenbosch 2018 (*Platinum*)
- KWV, Cathedral Cellar Sauvignon Blanc, Western Cape 2019 (*Platinum*)

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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