



## **UK wines receive top medals at the Decanter World Wine Awards 2021**

*Vintage English sparkling shows world-class quality, as still wines from England and Wales win Gold medals.*

**7 JULY, LONDON:** Medal winners have been revealed in the biggest-ever edition of the Decanter World Wine Awards, following two weeks of rigorous, Covid-secure judging, and UK wineries have received several top awards for a diverse range of wine styles.

Results from the Decanter World Wine Awards (DWWA) 2021 show that a 2011-vintage English sparkling wine won one of just 50 coveted Best in Show medals awarded globally.

Now in its 18<sup>th</sup> year, DWWA is the world's largest and most influential wine competition. In 2021, more than 160 expert judges, including 44 Masters of Wine and 11 Master Sommeliers, tasted a record 18,094 wines from 56 countries.

Just 0.28% of the total wines tasted at DWWA 2021 secured one of the 50 Best in Show medals. There were also 179 Platinum and 635 Gold medals awarded, making up 0.99% and 3.51% respectively of the total wines tasted.

The UK Best in Show medal went to **Squerryes, Late Disgorged Brut 2011**, a sparkling wine from Kent made with the classic 'Champagne' grape varieties: Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier.

It was produced via the 'traditional method', also used in Champagne, which involves a secondary fermentation taking place inside the bottle.

The victory demonstrates how UK sparkling wines can rival top cuvées around the world in terms of their ability to age.

DWVA judges said in their tasting notes on the wine: 'The drama and intensity of great traditional-method English sparkling wines is now widely recognised. What

English wine creators are just beginning to grasp, though, is just how propitious their fine sparkling wines are for extended ageing, in large part due to the extraordinary, flavour-saturated acid profiles bequeathed by the long, luminous yet always fretful English summers.

'The aromas of this outstanding 2011 Kentish wine are expressive, harmonious and refined after a decade of slow maturation -- all orchard fruits, wet stone and damp woodland.'

DWWA 2021 also emphasised the UK wine industry's strength in depth. Alongside one Best in Show medal, UK wines won two Platinum and nine Gold medals, as well as 81 Silver and 51 Bronze.

Wineries in Kent enjoyed a particularly strong year, although 21 UK regions from Cornwall to Derbyshire and Conwy in North Wales were represented on this year's medal table.

Platinum medals were awarded to two sparkling wines from Kent: **Chapel Down Rosé Brut, non-vintage (NV)**, and **Gusbourne Blanc de Blancs Brut 2016**.

Seven sparkling wines won Gold medals. They included Buckinghamshire winery **Harrow & Hope's Blanc de Noirs Brut 2015** and Surrey-based **Denbies' 'Cubitt Blanc de Noirs' 2014**, as well as Supermarket **Morrisons' 'The Best English Sparkling Brut' 2010**.

Still wines also showed why they are considered a rising force on the UK winemaking scene, winning two Gold medals.

One of those Golds went to **White Castle Vineyard's 'Pinot Noir Reserve' 2018**, made with Pinot Noir Précoce in Monmouthshire, Wales. This was the first-ever Gold medal won by a Welsh wine in the DWWA. The other Gold went to Kent-based **Chapel Down winery's 'Kit's Coty' Bacchus 2019**.

Bacchus, which some experts have likened to Sauvignon Blanc, has emerged as a key grape variety for UK white wines in recent years.

Sarah Jane Evans, Master of Wine (MW) and DWWA 2021 Co-Chair, said of this year's competition: '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 and also have a chance to step back and decide whether they really are the right Gold medal winners.'

'Then they go up to the Co-Chairs who re-taste and think again. So actually, that rigour, that independence is really, really a wonderful thing to have for a medal, so whether you get a Bronze, or a Silver or a Gold you can know it's been hard won.'

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**

The United Kingdom was awarded a total of 144 medals, with one Best in Show, two Platinum, nine Gold, 81 Silver and 51 Bronze.

The following wines won Best in Show, Platinum and Gold medals:

- Squerryes, Late Disgorged Brut, United Kingdom, Kent 2011 (*Best in Show*)
- Chapel Down, Rosé Brut, Kent NV (*Platinum*)
- Gusbourne, Blanc de Blancs Brut, Kent 2016 (*Platinum*)
- Chapel Down, Kit's Coty Coeur de Cuvée, Kent 2015 (*Gold*)
- Hambledon, Première Cuvée Brut, Hampshire NV (*Gold*)
- Chapel Down, Kit's Coty Bacchus, Kent 2019 (*Gold*)
- Denbies, Cubitt Blanc De Noirs, Surrey 2014 (*Gold*)
- White Castle Vineyard, Reserve Pinot Noir, Monmouthshire 2018 (*Gold*)
- Morrisons, The Best Brut, England 2010 (*Gold*)
- Harrow & Hope, Blanc de Noirs Brut, Buckinghamshire 2015 (*Gold*)
- Hambledon. Classic Cuvée Rosé Brut, Hampshire NV (*Gold*)
- Fox & Fox, Mayfield Essence Chardonnay Brut, East Sussex 2015 (*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](#).

## **The PPA Awards 2021**

DWWA recently won *Event of the Year* at the prestigious PPA Awards 2021. See 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 more than 100 countries around the globe, Decanter provides authoritative content, independent advice and inspirational events and competitions.

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