



## **AUSTRALIA SCORES RECORD BEST IN SHOW AND GOLD MEDAL COUNTS IN 20<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF DECANTER WORLD WINE AWARDS**

*Australia tops global chart of top-category medals in 2023 edition of the world's greatest wine competition*

7 June: Decanter World Wine Awards (DWWA) today releases full results in its 20th year, celebrating continued growth before a trusted global audience of both consumers and trade.

A record number of 18,250 wines were judged from 57 countries – up from 54 countries in 2022. The judging panel's 236 experts (including 53 Masters of Wine and 16 Master Sommeliers) represent 30 different nations. Signifying that DWWA is now internationally back after the pandemic, almost half of the judges had travelled from abroad to join the process.

Victories for Australia include scoring its highest-ever medal counts in the Best in Show and Gold categories. Just 50 wines across the entire competition were awarded Best in Show, with Australia securing a record ten – more than any other country at the 2023 competition. This is alongside 17 Platinum (out of just 125 globally) and a commendable 66 Gold.

Australia's top 10 were awarded to five reds, four single varietal whites and a white fortified wine, **Morris, Cellar Reserve Grand Muscat, Rutherglen, Victoria NV**. Judges commented, "The small town of Rutherglen in inland Victoria is home to some of the world's most extraordinary fortified wines."

Headliner South Australia had a successful year with 35 top medals (95+ points) including half of Australia's Best in Show medals. On this, judges commented: "Two Best in Show appearances for McLaren Vale this year underscore the enduring potential of this South Australian region." Three more top category awards went to wines from Eden Valley, Adelaide Hills and Barossa.

Margaret River stood out as a star region with the most 97-point wines including three Best in Show (for two reds and one white wine) and three Platinum (for two whites and one red wine).

While the majority of Western Australia's 23 top medals (Gold, Platinum and Best in Show) went to Margaret River wines, Frankland River's first-ever Platinum was bestowed upon **Amelia Park, Reserve Shiraz 2021**.

Beechworth in Victoria triumphed with its second-ever Platinum, awarded to **Brokenwood, Indigo Vineyard Chardonnay 2021**. Other diverse sub-regions of Victoria including the Macedon Ranges, Pyrenees, Grampians, Rutherglen and



Yarra Valley saw success with a total of 18 top medals awarded between them, four medals up from 2022 and 2021 results.

Australia's southernmost point of Tasmania showed the clear strength of its Chardonnay and Pinot Noir with ten 95-97 point wines awarded, including seven still and three sparkling wines.

Celebrating its best DWWA results in four years, New South Wales recorded one Best in Show, one Platinum and three Gold medals for its top-quality Shiraz and world-renowned aged Sémillons, 2017 being the standout vintage.

2023 saw the launch of an Alternative Packaging category and of the 31 wines awarded medals, South Australia received three Bronze medals. Showing improvements in quality wine in different formats, these were for two bag-in-box wines (one red and one white) and a red wine in carton.

Decanter World Wine Awards Co-Chair, Michael Hill Smith MW, commented:

"Decanter World Wine Awards has evolved through time, but it's still kept to its core principle of regions being judged by regional specialists... I think what I've really enjoyed is that nice mixture of the old and the bold."

Visit [awards.decanter.com](https://awards.decanter.com) for 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**

Australia was awarded a total of 719 medals comprising ten Best in Show, 17 Platinum, 66 Gold, 328 Silver and 298 Bronze medals.

The following wines won Australia's Best in Show medals:

- Brokenwood Wines, ILR Reserve Semillon, Hunter Valley, New South Wales 2017
- Domaine Naturaliste, Rebus Cabernet Sauvignon, Margaret River, Western Australia 2020
- Evans & Tate, Redbrook Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, Margaret River, Western Australia 2018
- Gatt Wines, Riesling, High Eden (Eden Valley), South Australia 2017
- Heirloom Vineyards, Alcalá Grenache, McLaren Vale, South Australia 2022
- House of Cards, Ace of Spades Chardonnay, Margaret River, Western Australia 2022
- Jacob's Creek, Johann Shiraz-Cabernet, Barossa Valley, South Australia 2013
- Morris, Cellar Reserve Grand Muscat, Rutherglen, Victoria NV
- Penfolds, Reserve Bin 21 A Chardonnay, Adelaide Hills, South Australia 2021
- Wirra Wirra, Chook Block, McLaren Vale, South Australia 2019

## **About DWWA**

Launched in 2004 and now in its 20th year, the Decanter World Wine Awards (DWWA) is the world's largest and most influential wine competition.

Decanter - the world's leading wine media brand - has a trusted relationship 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.

## **About Decanter**

Decanter is the world's leading wine media brand with a total monthly reach in excess of 2 million via its print, digital and social channels. It has a unique place in the world wine market, with authoritative tastings and highly knowledgeable expert contributors making it a must-read, both online and in its high-quality monthly print magazine. Decanter was launched in 1975, making it one of the publishing world's enduring success stories.