



WINNERS ANNOUNCED: DECANTER WORLD WINE AWARDS 2023 CONTINUES TO SET THE SCENE FOR THE CURRENT WORLD OF WINE

7 June: Full results have been released in the prestigious Decanter World Wine Awards 2023, revealing a glittering array of medal winners across the globe – from unmissable examples of classic styles to exciting producers in lesser-known regions.

Celebrating its 20th year, Decanter World Wine Awards (DWWA) has cemented its place as the world's largest and most influential wine competition.

A record 18,250 wines from 57 countries were judged at the 2023 competition, all scrutinised by leading international experts in a rigorous process to ensure that both consumers and trade can seek out quality wines in every category, at every price point, with confidence.

A total of **236 judges**, including 16 Master Sommeliers and 53 Masters of Wine, from 30 countries took part, many of them specialists on specific styles and regions.

Only **50 Best in Show medals** were awarded, representing just 0.27% of all wines tasted. Top awards also included **125 Platinum medals** and **705 Gold medals**.

Australia won 10 coveted Best in Show medals in 2023, more than any other country, spread across five red wines, four single-varietal whites and a fortified wine. It also won 17 Platinum and 66 Gold medals, adding to the country's momentum at DWWA in recent years.

France and **Spain** both won eight Best in Show medals and Italy seven. These three countries topped the leaderboard for Platinum and Gold medals, but many top awards also went to exciting wines from the US, South Africa, Argentina, New Zealand, Chile and Portugal.

There was a Best in Show for UK sparkling, while Greece won two Best in Show medals, topping its record best, and Germany returned to the top 50 list after last year's absence, thanks to its prowess with Riesling.

DWWA has a strong reputation for highlighting premium wines produced in lesser-known vineyard regions in many countries, and this year was no exception.



Wines from Ukraine, Serbia, Canada, Slovenia, Brazil, Israel, Georgia and Japan were just some of those to prosper.

A new Value Gold Top 10 list debuted at DWWA 2023, featuring styles ranging from elegant Austrian Grüner Veltliner to Cabernet Franc skillfully crafted in Argentina's Uco Valley, Mendoza. Re-tasted amongst the 101 wines awarded Gold medals in the Value category (wines under £15), the list showcases the 10 best.

For the first time, DWWA 2023 also allowed entries of wines sold in alternative packaging, from cans to bag-in-box, reflecting this category's rise and further emphasising the competition's commitment to sustainability. A total 31 "alt packaging" wines won medals, including four Silvers.

Andrew Jefford, one of four DWWA Co-Chairs, said of the competition's 20th anniversary edition: "DWWA was a little acorn 20 years ago. Now it's a mighty oak. It's been wonderful to watch that growth – it's a bigger tree than we ever dreamed was possible at the beginning."

He added, "If the wine world could be said to have any sort of a benchmark or proving ground, a place where your wines can go to match up against those being made elsewhere [on all five continents], then it might just be Decanter World Wine Awards."

Fellow DWWA Co-Chair Sarah Jane Evans MW, said: "DWWA has become a network of the world's best people judging wines. So that's a very exciting thing to be part of."

DWWA 2023 results: a year for both classics and rising stars

For major producer nations, DWWA 2023 highlighted benchmark examples of signature styles while also revealing exciting wines offering something different.

In Spain, famed red Rioja rubbed shoulders with **Ramón Do Casar, Treixadura 2022** from Ribeiro in Galicia on the Best in Show list, for example.

French Best in Show winners featured Bordeaux reds, Provence rosé and Alsace Riesling, but there was a first-ever Gold medal for Corsican rosé, too. France also won two of six Gold medals awarded globally to orange wines.



Two Barolo wines won Best in Show medals for Italy, yet so did Tuscan Cabernet Franc and also **Sicily's Mecori, Duo 2021**, blending Nerello Mascalese and Nerello Cappuccio.

Judges said: "The renaissance of viticultural endeavour in the high-altitude vineyards of Sicily's Etna, on the slopes of a far-from-dormant volcano, is one of the great success stories of the modern wine world."

In Australia, Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon, old-vine Grenache from McLaren Vale and Hunter Valley Semillon won Best in Show medals. "If there is a 'winning region' in this year's Top 50 Best in Show selection, it has to be Western Australia's Margaret River," said judges, noting two Cabernets and a Chardonnay which made the list.

Beyond that, Frankland River in Western Australia saw its first Platinum medal, for **Amelia Park, Reserve Shiraz 2021**. Tasmania received three Platinums and seven Golds across sparkling and still wines, reinforcing its reputation as a cool-climate region to watch, particularly for Chardonnay and Pinot Noir.

In South Africa, **Le Riche Wines, Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2020** from Stellenbosch secured one of the country's two Best in Show medals. "Things come, things go, fashions turn... but, year after year, Stellenbosch quietly gets on with producing some of the Southern Hemisphere's most assured Cabernet Sauvignon," said judges.

Iona, Highlands Chardonnay 2021 from Elgin also won a Best in Show in a strong year for this region, while **Diemersdal Wine Estate, The Journal Sauvignon Blanc 2022** is a wine to make Cape Town's Durbanville proud for its first-ever Platinum win.

Pinot Noir in the spotlight

Oregon won a coveted Best in Show medal, last awarded to the US state in 2020, thanks to **Archery Summit Winery, Pinot Noir 2021** from the Dundee Hills AVA, which lies within Willamette Valley. "This 2021-vintage wine is a fine example of the charm, balance and satisfaction that fine Dundee Hills Pinot can provide," said judges.

Two more Pinot Noir wines made the Best in Show list, including **Château de Meursault, Clos des Epenots 2021**, representing a triumph in a challenging



Burgundy vintage, as well as **Palliser Estate, Hua Nui Single Vineyard Pinot Noir 2021** from Martinborough in Wairarapa, New Zealand. "This is assured Pinot Noir from one of the southern hemisphere's reference zones," said judges.

More DWWA 2023 firsts

Serbia won its first ever Best in Show medal, with **Vinarija Vinčić, Grašac 2020**, a white wine from the hills of Fruška Gora. Judges said it was a "fine-dining, white-tablecloth" example of wine made with the Grašac grape variety."

Chile's Colchagua region won its first Best in Show medal thanks to **Casa Silva, Gran Terroir Carménère 2022**, highlighting winemakers' efforts to showcase top vineyard sites and terroirs.

Ukraine had an impressive year, winning 37 medals, up from 14 last year, including its first Platinum medal: **Shabo, Limited Edition Muscat Ottonel 2016**, a fortified wine from the Odessa region. Judges enjoyed its harmonious sweetness supported by lively freshness.

A debut Gold for a sparkling wine from Georgia: "ruby" coloured **Badagoni, Maestro Saperavi 2021**.

DWWA Co-Chair Ronan Sayburn MS, said of the results: "I think it's the toughest wine competition to enter because the standards are very, very high. The medals have to be earned."

He was optimistic about the future of DWWA. "I think it's just going to get bigger and bigger. I think that there's more countries making quality wine. I think that as the wine world expands, which it is doing, there will just be more and more entries."

Fellow Co-Chair Michael Hill Smith MW said: "Decanter World Wine Awards has evolved through time, but it's still kept to its core principle of regions being judged by regional specialists. For me, the numbers are less important. What's important for me is the credibility of the judging, the credibility of the results."

Visit awards.decanter.com for a full list of winners.



The Decanter World Wine Awards Co-Chairs and key spokespeople are available for interviews, please use the contact details below to arrange. For more information contact:

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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.