



## **PORTUGAL IS A COUNTRY TO WATCH AT 20<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF DECANTER WORLD WINE AWARDS**

*Portugal is making waves for its regional wines and styles at the 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 Portugal include a praiseworthy year-on-year rise in quality, with outstanding results championing still white wines. With its overall medal count up, including an almost 50% increase in Golds awarded, Portugal acquired three Best in Show medals, three Platinum (out of just 125 globally) and 40 Gold.

Only 50 wines across the entire competition were awarded Best in Show, with Madeira back in the competition's Top 50 list after a one year hiatus for **Blandy's 1978 Terrantez. Cálem's 40 Year Old Tawny Port NV** and **Quinta Da Pedra Escrita's 2020** red from Douro collected Portugal's other top honours. Judges commented: "Given the extraordinary potential of the Douro, it's no surprise that Douro red wines as well as Ports are a regular feature of our Top 50 Best in Show selections."

Fortified wines impressed with a further two 97-points awarded to Platinum medal winners **Sandeman, 40 Year Old Tawny Port NV** and **Casa Ermelinda Freitas, Superior, Moscatel Roxo de Setúbal 2010**. Portugal's best-ever Gold performance included a total of 19 medals awarded to fortified wines alongside a top Silver triumph with 74 wines awarded for this style (the country's best performance since 2018).

White wines also had a stellar year, performing well across price spectrum, region of origin, grape variety and style. Decanter World Wine Awards Regional Chair for Portugal **Sarah Ahmed** commented:

"This year's DWWA marked a watershed moment. The Portuguese white entries not only scooped their highest ever Gold medal tally but, for the first time, more whites than red – 11 versus 9 - were awarded top medals (Gold, Platinum and Best in Show).



"It was a 'wow' moment, with over forty percent of medals going to white wines. Especially when you consider that, when I first judged Portuguese wines at DWWA in the noughties, there were no light white wine entries whatsoever."

Alentejo whites have proven to be wines to look out for with four wines awarded Gold medals, three of these to blends. Bucelas, Dão, Douro, Lisboa, Tejo and Vinho Verde also help make up Portugal's top white performance.

Masterful blenders, the depth and breadth of Portugal's red wines can be seen from results too, with native red blends from Alentejano, Alentejo, Beira Interior, Dão, Douro and Peninsula de Setúbal represented in the country's Gold medal count.

2023 saw the launch of an Alternative Packaging category and of the 39 wines awarded, Portugal received two Bronze medals. Showing improvements in quality wine in different formats, these were for bag-in box-reds from Lisboa and Vinho de Mesa.

The competition also unveiled a Value Gold Top 10 List (wines under £15). Portugal achieved one best value wine on this list for **Marks & Spencer, Collection, Late Bottled Vintage, Port 2017.**

About the DWWA, Co-Chair Andrew Jefford said:

"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. This year we welcomed 18,500 entries from 57 different countries... so 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."

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**

Portugal was awarded a total of 506 medals comprising three Best in Show, three Platinum, 40 Gold, 201 Silver and 259 Bronze medals.

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

- Blandy's, Terrantez, Madeira, Portugal 1978
- Cálem, 40 Year Old Tawny, Port, Portugal NV
- Quinta Da Pedra Escrita, Douro, Portugal 2020

### **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.