



A STELLAR YEAR FOR SPAIN AT DECANTER WORLD WINE AWARDS 2023

Spain climbed into the top echelons of the Top 50 medal chart – and threw in a few surprises for both traditional and emerging regions at Decanter World Wine Awards 2023

7 JUNE: After two weeks of rigorous judging in London, full results from Decanter World Wine Awards 2023 are released today, revealing that Spain put in a stellar performance in the sparkling, still and fortified wine categories – with some surprise successes, too. With the medals counts in, Spain climbed into the competition's Top 50 Best in Show category with the second most medals awarded – to tie with France.

This year Decanter World Wine Awards (DWWA) celebrates its 20th year. Since its inception two decades ago, DWWA has consolidated its reputation as the largest and most influential wine competition in the world, acclaimed for its rigorous judging process. Over the course of two weeks in April and May, 236 judges (including 16 Master Sommeliers and 53 Masters of Wine) from 30 countries tasted, debated and compared the relative merits of 18,250 wines from 57 countries, making this year's competition the largest yet.

Spain's producers collected eight Best in Show medals (two more compared to last year), plus 20 Platinum and 88 Gold medals, highlighting the country's consistent high-quality winemaking. Victories include a number of 'firsts' for the country, as well as impressive results for powerhouse regions such as Rioja and Ribera del Duero.

Regarding Spain's performance, DWWA Co-Chair Sarah Jane Evans MW commented: "Spain, I think, is the most exciting wine-producing country in Europe," citing Alicante, Galicia and the Mediterranean coast as among the country's vinous hotspots – in addition to Rioja, which, judging from this year's results, continues to go from strength to strength.

Rioja collected no fewer than 33 medals in the top three award categories – Best in Show (two medals), Platinum (eight) and Gold (23). Indeed, both Best in Show wines were reds from Rioja. That from **Ramón Bilbao, Lalomba Finca Ladero 2018**, a blend of Tempranillo with 20% Garnacha, was deemed "dark and purposeful, with warm, sweet scents combining ample plum fruits and well-judged oak" while the 100% Tempranillo from boutique producer **Bodegas Ysios, Finca Lagunazuri 2018** was described as "generously structured yet sensually alluring" with "the capacity to age for a further ten years". **Bodegas Ysios** also picked up a Gold for its 2021 rosé, which displayed "hints of blackcurrant cough drops and thyme".



Ribera del Duero, another stalwart region in the country's north, claimed 4 Platinum and 15 Gold medals – all for its famously muscular red wines, usually based on Tempranillo.

Ribeiro, a tiny DO in the northwest, is white-wine country ruled by the Treixadura grape variety. Winning a Best in Show medal was **Ramón Do Casar, Treixadura 2022**, which judges described as an “admirable ambassador for its region”. On the rugged Atlantic coast, also in the northwest, the Rías Baixas region is home to top-quality Albariño. **Mar de Frades, Finca Monteveiga, Albariño 2018** secured a Best in Show for its rendition.

Spain's sparkling wines were on winning form too, with Catalunya's **Albet I Noya El Corral Cremat Brut 2012** claiming a Best in Show for a pure Xarel-lo that put judges in the mind of “meadow grasses in high summer”. Spain's best-known sparkler, Cava, won a Top 10 Value Gold (Gold medal winners costing less than £15) with **Summum, Lacrima Baccus Reserva Brut, Cava 2018**.

As for 'firsts', 2023 marked the country's first-ever Gold for a wine from Tierra del Vino de Zamora for **Viñas Del Cénit 2020**, plus a first-ever Platinum for Jumilla's **Bodegas BSI, Gémina Finca El Volcán 2018**. The Hondarrabi Zuri grape from Spain's Basque country is not new to the top medal chart, but this year marked two first-ever Golds for wines from Txacolí de Getaria – **Bodega K5, Kaiaren 2016** and **Bodega Katxiña 2022**.

Spain's famed fortified wines won four Platinum and 13 Gold medals as well as two Best in Show, both for 30 Year Old Sherries: **Harveys Amontillado VORS** and **Lustau Oloroso VORS**. As if to underscore Spain's winemaking diversity, there were also two non-sherry Gold medals, from the Montilla-Morilles and Priorat regions.

About 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 for a full list of winners.

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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

Spain was awarded a total of 2,020 medals comprising eight Best in Show, 20 Platinum, 88 Gold, 780 Silver and 1,124 Bronze medals.

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

- Albet I Noya El Corral Cremat Brut, Penedès 2012
- Bodegas Y Viñedos Merayo, Las Tres Filas Mencía, Bierzo 2020
- Bodegas Ysios, Finca Lagunazuri, La Rioja, Rioja 2018
- Harveys, 30 Years, Amontillado, Sherry NV
- Lustau, 30 Years Old, Oloroso, Sherry NV
- Mar de Frades, Finca Monteveiga Albariño, Rías Baixas 2018
- Ramón Bilbao, Lalomba Finca Ladero, La Rioja, Rioja 2018
- Ramón Do Casar, Treixadura, Ribeiro 2022

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.