



## UK WINES PROVE STAYING POWER WITH TOP MEDALS AT DECANTER WORLD WINE AWARDS 2023

*Best in Show medal for Gusbourne Blanc de Blancs 2018, with UK sparkling rosé, still Chardonnay and orange wine also highlights*

7 June: Newly released results from the prestigious Decanter World Wine Awards 2023 have enhanced UK sparkling wines' status in vinous high society, while also highlighting exciting homegrown still wines and great value supermarket bottles.

Full results have been revealed from the 2023 competition, which saw a record 18,250 wines from 57 countries judged by leading international experts.

Now in its 20<sup>th</sup> year, DWWA is the world's biggest and most influential wine competition, backed by a rigorous process to ensure consumers can buy medal winners with confidence. A total of 236 specialist judges from 30 countries took part in DWWA 2023, including 16 Master Sommeliers and 53 Masters of Wine.

**Gusbourne, Blanc de Blancs 2018** sparkling wine from Kent, produced from 100% Chardonnay, won one of only 50 Best in Show medals awarded, marking the fifth consecutive year that UK sparkling has featured on the competition's coveted Best in Show list.

"It's a wine of remarkable assurance and accomplishment," said judges of the wine from Gusbourne, which is based in Kent but also has vineyards in West Sussex.

The UK also won a Platinum medal and six Golds at DWWA 2023. Platinum, awarded to just 125 wines globally, went to **Ridgeview, Rosé de Noirs 2018**, a sparkling rosé wine made from Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier in East Sussex.

Five Gold medals went to sparkling wines, including three from Hampshire: **Candover Valley Wines' Brook Brut NV**, **Hambledon Vineyard's Premier Cuvée Brut NV**, and **Raimes, Classic Brut 2018**. The other two to sparkling wines from Kent, including **Woodchurch, Classic Brut 2017** and **Chapel Down, Kit's Coty Coeur De Cuvée Extra Brut 2016**. Almost all are Chardonnay-dominant blends with Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier, Chapel Down being the exception with 100% Chardonnay and 96 points to the others' 95.



Still wines continued to impress DWWA judges, too. **Gusbourne** scooped the UK's sixth Gold for its **Guinevere Chardonnay 2021**.

Other highlights include a Silver medal for **Vagabond Wines, Dios Mío 2021** orange wine from **Oxfordshire**, a style that has risen to prominence in recent years. This UK example is made from Bacchus, with judges noting its "impressive structure with hints of mandarin, citric pith and quince for a balanced freshness with good length."

In total, the UK won 143 medals at DWWA 2023. While Kent, Hampshire and East Sussex dominated the very top medals, Silver and Bronze winners were spread across many counties, from Cornwall to Essex, as well as up to Shropshire and Staffordshire.

In Lincolnshire, the white grape variety Solaris, a cross including Riesling and Pinot Gris parentage, impressed for **Ovens Farm Vineyard, Solaris 2021**, receiving a Silver medal and 92 points. While in Wales, Monmouthshire-based White Castle Vineyard won a Bronze for its **Regent 2021 red wine**.

Simon Field MW, Regional Chair for the UK at DWWA, said two main things stood out about UK entries this year. "Firstly, the increase in both volume and quality of the still wines submitted, their provenance as varied as their quality was consistent."

He added, "The quality of the sparklers, secondly, continues to impress as the category takes on maturity; as the wines and winemakers alike take on a little more age it becomes increasingly clear that the long-held faith in such things has most definitely not been informed by misguided patriotism."

### **Top UK supermarket winners**

Among exciting UK supermarket wines to seek out, **Marks & Spencer Collection, Late Bottled Vintage Port 2017** was named on the competition's Top 10 Value list. The new list highlights the best of the competition's Gold wines priced under £15 a bottle, with all 101 Value Gold's re-tasted blind to determine the Top 10.

Supermarket Sauvignon Blanc enjoyed a good year, with Value Gold medals for **Aldi's Specially Selected Kooliburra Sauvignon Blanc 2022** from Adelaide Hills, South Australia, as well as **Asda's La Corriente Sauvignon Blanc 2022** from Colchagua, Chile – both in the "up to £9.99" price brand.



Vintage Champagne from Co-op also won Gold, with its **Les Pionniers Brut 2013** awarded 96 points.

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

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**

The United Kingdom was awarded a total of 143 medals comprising one Best in Show, one Platinum, six Gold, 58 Silver and 77 Bronze medals.

The following wines won the UK's Best in Show and Platinum medals:

- Gusbourne, Blanc De Blancs, Kent 2018 (Best in Show, 97 points)
- Ridgeview, Rosé De Noirs Brut, East Sussex 2018 (Platinum, 97 points)

### **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.