



South America enjoys highly successful IWC Competition

South America enjoyed a highly successful competition for the International Wine Challenge (IWC) Tranche 1. With eight Gold, 62 Silver, 110 Bronze and 96 Commendations over five countries, the continent boasted a 11% increase in the number of medals from last year.

In terms of quantity, red wines were responsible for nearly two thirds of the medals in the latest round of the world's most influential wine competition, while whites brought in 21 winning medals across the continent. Argentina beat stiff competition for the top place with six Golds, while Chile brought home two.

While Argentina's winners were all stalwarts of the region – Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon – the Chilean winners were less commonly associated with South American styles, with Pinot Noir and Petit Syrah featuring in the Gold winners.

Argentina's winemakers collected six Gold medals, 26 Silver, 52 Bronze, and 28 Commended.

The Golds were all for red varietals, with five going to Malbecs. The Gold medal winners were:

- Trapiche's Perfiles Calcareao Malbec 2017
- Viña Doña Paula's Selección de Bodega 2016
- Trivento Bodegas y Viñedos' Gaudeo Paraje Altamira Malbec 2015
- Gaudeo Tupungato Malbec 2015
- Finca Ferrer's Acordeón Malbec 2017
- Bodega Cadus Wines' Appellation Cabernet Sauvignon 2016

Chilean winemakers were awarded two Gold medals, also for red wines.

Viña Cono Sur's Ocio Pinot Noir 2016 and Bodega Volcanes de Chile's Ígneo 2014 – a blend of Petite Syrah and Petit Verdot both scored 95 points cementing their place on the Gold podium.

Chilean wines were also awarded 34 Silver medals, 53 Bronze, and 63 Commended.

Uruguay picked up two Silver medals, five Bronze and one Commended.

Peru and Brazil both gained two Commended apiece, both for white wines.

Dr Jamie Goode, one of the six co-chairs who oversee the judging process, said: "I think that if a wine achieves a medal in the IWC then it's a safe bet for a good bottle this Christmas. It takes a lot to get a Silver, and the Golds are rare!"

Charles Metcalfe, another IWC co-chair and founder, added: "We don't just hand out medals to our favourite winemakers! Every medal has been awarded after a blind tasting by experts from all over the world."

The first part of the 2019 International Wine Challenge – Tranche 1 – saw 212 wine experts from 23 countries judging the wines over four days in London. Tranche 2 judging will take place from April 1-11, 2019, with the results announced on May 8.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The International Wine Challenge

In its 36th year, the International Wine Challenge is accepted as the world's finest and most meticulously judged competition. The IWC assesses every wine 'blind' and judges each for its faithfulness to style, region and vintage. Each medal-winning wine is tasted on at least three separate occasions by a minimum of 12 different judges including Masters of Wine. Awards include medals (Gold, Silver, Bronze) and Commended awards. The IWC is committed to helping consumers discover great wine, and the medals displayed on winning bottles offer a trusted guarantee of quality.

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