



PHIPPS

28<sup>th</sup> November 2019

**'Seven swans a-swimming, six geese a-laying, Five golden ... supermarkets!'**  
**Medal-worthy wines for the Christmas table from the International Wine Challenge**

Selecting the best wine to match with the festive feast can be a tricky exercise, with the pressure on to select the best possible wine for the big day. Luckily, the world's most rigorous tasting competition, the International Wine Challenge, has done all the hard work; over 200 of the world's top wine experts from 23 countries met at a four-day judging session this November to taste literally thousands of wines and select the very best of these to help consumers make great wine choices.

This year, UK supermarkets showed that they have got what it takes – pulling in 482 medals between them. 13 Gold medals (95 points and above) were all scooped up by five retailers: Aldi, M&S, Morrisons, Tesco and Waitrose – the five golden supermarkets! The wines from M&S, Morrisons and Tesco were all own-label, with M&S and Waitrose both scoring four out of the 13 Golds for their wines. Tesco and Aldi achieved two Golds each and Morrisons one.

And the golden bottles to take you through the festive season are:

**Stunning Sparkling**



Marks & Spencer - Le Caves De Hautes Côtes Crémant De Bourgogne Brut, NV - £10



Marks & Spencer - Delacourt Champagne Vintage Brut, 2004 - £30



Waitrose - Hattingley Valley Rosé, 2015 - £37

## Great Whites



Aldi - Tasmanian Artisan Chardonnay, 2017 - £16.99



Waitrose - O'Leary Walker Polish Hill River Riesling, 2011 - £18



Waitrose - Chablis Premier Cru Vaillons Domaine, 2017 - £25.99

## Glorious Reds



Aldi - Tasmanian Terraverde Pinot Noir, 2018 - £10.99



Tesco - Finest Central Otago Pinot Noir, 2018 - £13



Waitrose - The Forger Shiraz, 2017 - £24.99

## Festive Fortifieds



Morrisons - The Best Oloroso, NV - £6.25



Marks & Spencer - Manzanilla, NV £7



Marks & Spencer - Very Rare Pedro Ximenez, NV - £9



Tesco - Finest Late Bottled Vintage Port, 2014 - £11

Another great success for Aldi was the Exquisite Collection Lyme Block (£9.99) – this refreshing English blend of Bacchus, Pinot Blanc and Solaris was highly rated by the judges, scoring one of the top silver medals of the competition so far.

Helen McGinn, newest Co-Chair of the International Wine Challenge, commented:

"It's brilliant to see such quality in the UK supermarkets and at such great value too. Many of the Gold and Silver winners are ideal accompaniments to the Christmas table and there's an impressive range to choose from. Our judges have worked hard to pick the best wines possible for you this Christmas, and we're delighted with the results."

For more information on the International Wine Challenge, please contact the team at Phipps  
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#### NOTES TO EDITORS:

##### The International Wine Challenge

In its 37<sup>th</sup> year, the International Wine Challenge is accepted as the world's most rigorous, impartial and influential wine competition. The International Wine Challenge 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 International Wine Challenge is committed to helping consumers discover great wine, and the medals displayed on winning bottles offer a trusted guarantee of quality. The International Wine Challenge is committed to helping consumers discover great wine, and the medals displayed on winning bottles and in winning shops offer a trusted guarantee of quality.

The first part of the 2020 International Wine Challenge – Tranche 1 – saw over 200 of the world's top wine experts from 23 countries judging the wines over four days in London. Tranche 2 judging will take place from April 14-23, 2020, with the results announced on May 15.

Look out for the International Wine Challenge stickers on wine bottles in stores. Each sticker vouches that the wine has been tasted by over 200 expert judges and is a guarantee that the wine in the bottle is a great example of its type.

