



PHIPPS

**International Wine Challenge announces UK wide winners as wine industry expands beyond the south**



*Hencote Winery, Shropshire*

The International Wine Challenge, the world's most influential, impartial and rigorously judged wine competition has announced the winners of its 2021 competition, with the medal results showing how the UK wine map is evolving. While the south of England remains Britain's wine heartland, medal-winning wines are now being produced throughout the nation, extending out from the established south. Medals were awarded to wines in Staffordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire and Derbyshire as well as Conwy, Powys and Monmouthshire in Wales.

With such a strong medal haul, Great Britain has once again ranked in 8<sup>th</sup> position worldwide for Gold Medals. Wines from 21 counties across England and Wales were awarded medals including 12 Gold, 48 Silver, 58 Bronze and 18 Commended.

Shropshire winery, **Hencote**, took this year's only Gold medal for an English still wine, awarded to a red wine - **Mark I 2018**, made from a blend of Pinot Noir, Précoce and Rondo grapes. In particular, there was a notable boost for Staffordshire, which received six medals this year, including one Silver, two Bronze and three Commended, compared with only one Commended award last year.

Kent led the medal wins for English wines with 30 medals, three of which were Gold and also took home the **English Sparkling Trophy** with **The Squerryes Partnership Squerryes Blanc de Blancs 2014**, which also won the **English Sparkling Blanc de Blancs Trophy**. The **English Sparkling Classic Blend Trophy** was awarded to **Squerryes Brut 2011**.

In Hampshire three Gold medals went to **Hattingley Valley**, **Raimes English Sparkling Wine** and **Grange Estate Wines**. The latter was also awarded the **English Non-Vintage Sparkling Rosé Trophy** for **The Grange Hampshire Pink NV**.

**Roebuck Estates** and **Artelium** in Sussex, **Greyfriars Vineyard** and **High Clandon Estate Vineyard** in Surrey and **Camel Valley** in Cornwall were also recipients of Gold medals. **Roebuck Estates** also received the **English Vintage Sparkling Rosé Trophy** for its **Rosé de Noirs 2016**.

Oz Clarke, one of the six co-chairs for the International Wine Challenge and author of ‘English Wine’ commented: *‘Over the past few decades, it’s been incredible to witness the progress Great Britain has been making on the world stage for its wine, especially the sparkling wines from southern England. What’s really exciting to see now however, is the quality of wines we are tasting from other regions in the UK and the diverse styles being produced there.’*

### International by name...

Continuing to live up to its name, this year’s competition saw over 6,800 medals awarded to wines from over 40 countries from Moldova to Mexico. Notable achievements include Austria beating 15 other countries, including Sauvignon Blanc producing heavyweights, New Zealand and France, to the title of **International Sauvignon Blanc Trophy** for its **Sauvignon Blanc Kitzreck-Sausal Südsteiermark 2019** from Südsteiermark producer, **Weingut Schneeberger**. Down in the Pacific, after a five-year reign held by Syrah from New Zealand, Australia has won the crown of **International Shiraz Trophy** this year for **Wolf Blass Grey Label McLaren Vale Shiraz 2019** from **Wolf Blass Wines**. This year’s result represents the first time in almost a decade that Australia has won this trophy.

### Award-winning consumer choice at UK supermarkets

Committed to giving consumers the confidence to discover great wine from across the globe, the International Wine Challenge prides itself on the diversity of its entries and this year’s supermarket medal-winners reflected this variety. A Romanian Fetasca Regalas, Uruguayan Tannat and wines from Moldova made it onto the supermarket podium alongside wines from more established regions of the world.

UK supermarkets scooped multiple awards this year with 591 medals awarded overall, 430 of which were for own label wines. Aldi and Tesco achieved the most Gold Medals for own label wines, bringing home two Golds each, Aldi for its **Pinot Vigilante Central Otago Pinot Noir 2019** and **Fletchers 40 Year Old Tawny Port NV** and Tesco for the **Tesco Finest Tingleup Riesling 2020** and **Tesco Finest Margaux 2015**. Morrisons took home Gold for **Morrisons The Best Amarone 2017** and Waitrose was awarded the only Gold medal for an own-label sherry, **Waitrose & Partners Nº1 Fino del Puerto Don Luis**.

### Overall own label supermarket medals

Supermarket Own Label Wines	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Commended	Total
Morrisons	1	20	46	30	97
Tesco	2	16	49	25	92
Aldi	2	21	33	17	73
Marks & Spencer	0	12	35	12	59
Asda	0	4	24	12	40
Waitrose	1	9	15	4	29
Co-op	0	4	11	5	20
SPAR	0	0	13	7	20

The full list of award-winners in the 2021 International Wine Challenge released on 17<sup>th</sup> May can be seen [here](#). The IWC Champions 2021 winners, which are selected following a re-tasting of all trophy-

winning wines by the IWC Co-Chairs, will be revealed at the IWC 2021 Awards announcement on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June.

**ENDS**

**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

**The International Wine Challenge**

In its 38<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. Awards include medals (Gold, Silver, Bronze) and Commended awards. Trophies are awarded to the very best wines in each category. 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.

For more information on the IWC, please contact the IWC team at Phipps  
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**International Wine Challenge Results 2021: Top 10 Countries ranked by Gold medal wins**

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Commended
France	77	419	681	205
Australia	49	261	294	83
Spain	38	207	462	249
Portugal	26	165	288	116
Italy	17	166	446	242
Argentina	14	87	129	39
South Africa	13	57	136	79
Great Britain	12	48	58	18
Austria	11	35	24	9
New Zealand	9	76	151	54