



International Wine Challenge 2023 names wines and winemakers of the year



International Wine Challenge White Winemaker of the year, Natalie Christensen

The International Wine Challenge, the world's most influential, impartial, and rigorously judged global wine competition, has announced the highest scoring wines of its 2023 competition along with its five Winemakers of the Year.

Following a series of intensive blind tastings by an international panel of experts, wines from nine countries earned themselves a spot on the coveted list, which is comprised of International Trophy winners (wines named the best example of that variety) as well as the competition's five Champion wines (the ultimate accolade reserved for those wines deemed the absolute finest in their category).

New Zealand's Natalie Christensen named IWC's White Winemaker of the Year

- **Natalie Christensen**, chief winemaker at **Yealands Wine Group**, has been awarded the prestigious title of **IWC White Winemaker of the Year**. Yealands Wine Group also won 12 medals as well as the **New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc Trophy** for its **Yealands Estate Single Block S1 Sauvignon Blanc 2022**.
- Marlborough producer **Giesen Group** also shone, achieving 20 medals as well as the **International Syrah Trophy** for its **Giesen Single Vineyard Clayvin Syrah 2021**.
- The **Organic Trophy** went to Greystone Wines in Waipara for its **Greystone Chardonnay 2021**

Chile claims Red Winemaker of the Year for the first time

An impressive first came for Chile, which claimed the **Red Winemaker of the Year** award.

- This title went to **Rafael Urrejola**, chief winemaker at **Viña Undurraga**. In total, the Maipo Valley winery claimed twelve medals as well as all three of the country's regional trophies plus the **Chilean Red Trophy**. This went to its **T.H. Carignan Maule 2021** which judges described as "Fruity with plums, bramble fruit, forest and mulberries."

Argentinian Malbec named as world's best

Argentina's reputation for world-class Malbec was left in no doubt as the nation reclaimed the **International Malbec Trophy**, which it last won in 2018.

- This title went to **Huental Wines** for its "incredibly vibrant and intense" **Huental Calizo Carmin Block 3 2020** which also won the **Argentinian Red Trophy** and the **Mendoza Malbec Trophy**.
- Argentinian producer Bodega Argento won the **IWC Fairtrade Award** with **Artesano de Argento Organic Fairtrade Malbec 2021**, which judges described as "aromatic with rose petals and cooked fruit."

IWC Co-Chair Helen McGinn commented: "It's wonderful to see the Red Winemaker of the Year go to a Chilean producer for the first time. Viña Undurraga had a spectacular year and beating all other nations to claim this prestigious title proves that Rafael's exceptional talent can stand up to the expertise of Old World producers."

Wines judged "best in show" at the International Wine Challenge 2023:

France	Rare Champagne Millésime 2008	IWC Champion Sparkling Wine 2023 - Daniel Thibault Trophy , Champagne Trophy, Vintage Classic Blend Champagne Trophy
France	Edouard Delaunay Chambertin Grand Cru Rouge 2020	IWC Champion Red Wine 2023 , International Pinot Noir Trophy, French Red Trophy, Chambertin Trophy, Burgundy Red Trophy
France	Michel Tissot & Fils Château-Chalon Vin Jaune 2015	IWC Champion White Wine 2023 , French White Trophy, Jura White Trophy
Germany	Weingut Hans Wirsching Iphöfer Julius-Echter-Berg Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese 2021	IWC Champion Sweet Wine 2023 - Alois Kracher Trophy , German Sweet Trophy
Spain	Bodegas Fernando De Castilla Oloroso Singular	IWC Champion Fortified Wine 2023 - Manuel Lozano Trophy , Sherry Trophy, Oloroso Trophy
Argentina	Huental Calizo Carmin Block 3 2020	International Malbec Trophy , Argentinian Red Trophy, Mendoza Malbec Trophy
Australia	Paragon Wine Estates Riddoch The Pastoralist Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon 2021	International Cabernet Sauvignon Trophy , Australian Cabernet Sauvignon Trophy

Austria	Winzer Krems Eg Kremser Kreuzberg Riesling Kremstal Dac Reserve 2021	International Riesling Trophy , Austrian White Trophy, Austrian Riesling Trophy
Austria	Weingut Schneeberger Sauvignon Blanc Kittenberg Südsteiermark 2021	International Sauvignon Blanc Trophy , Austrian Sauvignon Blanc Trophy
New Zealand	Giesen Single Vineyard Clayvin Syrah 2021	International Syrah Trophy , New Zealand Red Trophy, New Zealand Syrah Trophy
New Zealand	Greystone Wines, Greystone Chardonnay 2021	Organic Trophy , New Zealand White Trophy, New Zealand Chardonnay Trophy
South Africa	Paul Cluver Seven Flags Chardonnay 2021	Sustainable Trophy , International Chardonnay Trophy, South African White Trophy
England	Lympstone Manor Estate Triassic Pinot Noir 2020	Best Wine in First Year of Production , English Red Trophy

IWC Winemakers of the Year 2023:

France	Sparkling Winemaker of the Year	Emilien Boutillat, Rare Champagne
Chile	Red Winemaker of the Year	Rafael Urrejola, Viña Undurraga
New Zealand	White Winemaker of the Year	Natalie Christensen, Yealands Wine Group
Austria	Sweet Winemaker of the Year	Hans Tschida, Angerhof Tschida
Spain	Fortified Winemaker of the Year	Marcos Alguacil, Bodegas Osborne

The full list of Trophy and Champion award winners at the 2023 International Wine Challenge released on 4th July can be found [here](#).

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

In its 39th year, the International Wine Challenge is widely acknowledged as the world's most rigorous, impartial, influential and global wine competition. The IWC 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 offer a trusted guarantee of quality.

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