



Embargoed until Thursday 29th November 11.00am GMT

England firmly on the leaderboard as Quality Sparkling Producer

England wins two Gold medals at International Wine Challenge for its sparkling wines

Two English sparkling wines gained Gold medals in the latest round of the International Wine Challenge (IWC), the world's most influential wine competition.

- **Raimes Classic Brut 2014** from Hampshire, a blend of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier
- **Ridgeview Blanc de Blancs 2014** from Sussex – made with 100% Chardonnay

Both scored 95 points.

In addition to the Golds, England was also awarded 11 Silver medals – ten of which were for sparkling wines, cementing England's status as a high-quality producer of fine sparkling wines.

Four of these went to Cornwall's Camel Valley, the region's largest producer of sparkling wine. Sussex producer **Peter Hall of Breaky Bottom**, and also **Ridgeview** were awarded two Silvers apiece. **Gusbourne** (Kent), **Denbies** (Surrey), **Bolney** and **Bluebell Vineyard Estates** (both Sussex) picked up one Silver medal each.

Highlighting the weight that these medals carry, Dr Jamie Goode, one of the six co-chairs who oversee the judging process, commented: "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, added: "Every medal has been awarded after a blind tasting by experts from all over the world."

Most of the English wines gaining Silver medals were made with the same type of grapes and techniques used in France's Champagne region. The exceptions were the **Darnibole Brut 2014** from Camel Valley, which is made from Seyval Blanc grapes – an early ripening grape well suited to England's climate, and **Bolney's sparkling Cuvee Rosé 2016** which features Gamay, the grape associated with Beaujolais, in the blend.

The only English still wine to receive a Silver was the **Denbies Bacchus**, which is available in Marks & Spencer.

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.

Availability of wines

Medal	Producer Name	Wine Name	Vintage	Available	RRP*
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Gold	Raimes	Classic Brut	2014	Fareham Cellar, Novel Wines, Concept Wines	£28.99
Gold	Ridgeview	Blanc de Blancs	2014	Wine Direct, The Wine Society	£42.69
Silver	Camel Valley	Camel Valley Classic Cuvee	2015	Marks & Spencer	£27.99
Silver	Camel Valley	Camel Valley Pinot Noir Rosé Brut	2016	Waitrose Cellar	£29.95
Silver	Camel Valley	Darnibole Brut	2014	<i>Not currently available</i>	
Silver	Camel Valley	Pinot Noir Brut	2014	The Champagne Company	£32.50
Silver	Peter Hall	Breaky Bottom Brut	2014	Waitrose Cellar	£26.99
Silver	Peter Hall	Breaky Bottom Brut	2011	<i>Not currently available</i>	
Silver	Gusbourne Estate	Berry Brothers & Rudd English Sparkling	NV	Berry Brothers	£25.99
Silver	Ridgeview	Blanc de Noirs	2014	The Bottle Club, Butlers Wine Cellar, theFoodMarket.com	£46.99
Silver	Bolney Wine Estate	Cuvée Rosé	2016	The Bolney Estate Shop	£29.99
Silver	Bluebell Vineyard Estates	Hindleap Classic Cuvee	2014	Bluebell Vineyard Shop	£29.95
Silver	Denbies	Bacchus	2017	Marks & Spencer	£9.99
*Average price					

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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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