



PHIPPS

## Trophy success for Northern Spain at the International Wine Challenge 2019

*Winners of the best Spanish Red and Spanish White awarded to producers in Ribera Del Duero and Ribeiro, and Rioja celebrates a win for Grenache*

Codorníu Raventós' Legaris Alcubilla de Avellaneda 2015 and Finca Viñoa 2017 have been recognised as the best wines in Spain at the International Wine Challenge 2019, the world's most influential wine competition.

Codorníu Raventós from the Ribera Del Duero sub-region received the Spanish Red Trophy for its 2015 Tinto Fino whilst the Spanish White Trophy was awarded to the Finca Viñoa 2017, made from Treixadura, Albariño and Godello.

Having first achieved Gold medals in the rigorous competition - judged by 400 wine experts from 38 countries - both these wines underwent further blind-tasting to secure the honour of a Trophy.

Overall, Spain scored an impressive 53 Gold, 209 Silver, and 347 Bronze medals, putting it in third place behind France and Australia in the international league table.

Emilio Lustau, whose winemaker Sergio Martínez won the IWC Fortified Winemaker of the Year title in 2018, continued its reign as Spain's most awarded producer, achieving an incredible 12 Golds. Among its star wines are the Palo Cortado V.O.R.S 30 Years, which scored 96/100 points and was named best Palo Cortado, and the Amontillado Botaina Saca En Rama, which scored 97/100.

Gonzalez Byass gained five Gold medals. Its Tio Pepe Cuatro Palmas Amontillado and Oloroso Don Gonzalo VOS 20 Y.O. both scored 97/100 – one point less than the highest score of the competition.

### Rioja

Spain's flagship region, generally known for its structured and characterful Tempranillo reds, took home the International Grenache Trophy, demonstrating the versatility and quality of the region. This was underlined by Spain's impressive medal haul, scoring 13 Gold, 74 Silver and 116 Bronze medals.

The highest scoring Rioja wines were Bodegas Taron's Pantocrator 2005, made from Tempranillo and Mazuelo, and Bodegas Forcada's Alma De Forcada Garnacha Cepas Viejas 2017 – both of which scored 96/100.

Baron de Ley was awarded three Gold medals, while Bodegas de Familia Burgo Viejo scored two. The best white from Rioja, winning a Gold medal, was Bodegas Baigorri's Blanco Fermentado en Barrica 2017, made from Viura and Malvasia grapes.

Charles Metcalfe, Co-Chair of the IWC, commented:

"Both Rioja and Sherry have performed outstandingly well in this year's International Wine Challenge. But we shouldn't forget that Spain has many other great wine regions, with a year on year increase in the number of entries and medals from regions like Castilla Y Leon

and Catalonia, demonstrating the versatility and diversity of the region, as well as the sheer quality of it."

### Other highlights

Spain's other key wine regions also struck gold. Catalonia won five Golds, Castilla Y Leon four, while Galicia and Cava won two each.

- The top Gold medal-winning wine from Aragón was Bodegas San Alejandro's Las Rocas Viñas Viejas 2017
- The top Gold medal-winning wine from Rueda was Bodega Cuatro Rayas' Cuatro Rayas Cuarenta Vendimias Cuvée 2017
- The Priorat Trophy winner was Familia Torres' Salmos 2016
- The Cava Trophy winner was Freixa Rigaus' Cava Batec Gran Reserva 2013
- One of the highest scoring white wines was a Godello from Galician producer Adegas A Coroa, the A Coroa 200 Cestos 2017, which scored 96/100

### NOTES TO EDITORS:

#### The International Wine Challenge

In its 37<sup>th</sup> year, the International Wine Challenge (IWC) 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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