



PHIPPS

## Italy crowned Rosé champion at the International Wine Challenge 2019

Provence may be the most famous rosé region in the world, but a Sicilian rosé made from Nerello Mascalese has been awarded the International Rosé Trophy at the International Wine Challenge, the world's most influential wine competition.

Torre Mora's Scalunera Etna Rosato 2018 scored 96 points on its way to receiving both the Sicilian Rosé Trophy and the International Rosé Trophy.

Italy also stunned at the International Wine Challenge with the outstanding quality of wines made from rare grape varieties.

Golds hailed from Tuscan and Piedmontese reds, and both reds and whites from Veneto, but what was more surprising was the superb quality of wines made from lesser-known grapes such as Fiano Di Avellino, Pecorino, Vernaccia di Oristano, and Teroldego.

Peter McCombie MW, IWC co-chair, said: "We expect to be wowed by the diversity of Italy's offer, but this year the judges were thrilled to find such exciting examples from outside the powerhouse regions of Tuscany, Piedmont and Veneto or, in some cases, from lesser known grapes."

The success from rare grapes was such that for the first time ever, a Schioppettino wine – a grape from the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region – was named the best Italian red wine, beating other Gold winners from better-known regions. The winning wine, Vigna Traverso's Schioppettino Rosso Friuli Colli Orientali 2015, scored 96 points, collecting the IWC's Italian Red Trophy.

Peter added: "It was no surprise to see Gold medals for the likes of sleek thoroughbreds like Massolino Vigna Rionda Barolo Parussi 2015, more unusual to see Gold for the unsung Teroldego, like Trentino Alto Adige's Castel Firmian Teroldego Rotaliano Riserva 2015, but all were pipped at the final post by the remarkable Vigna Traverso Schioppettino Rosso Friuli Colli Orientali 2015. The sometimes challenging Schioppettino grows only in a remote corner of Friuli's Colli Orientali and needs careful handling in vineyard and cantina to produce wine of this complexity and charm."

Tuscany was another blue chip region which saw good Golds for reds in the Chianti, Bolgheri and Tuscan IGP classes, alongside the superb, luscious and sensuous Tenuta Di Capezzana Vinsanto Riserva 2011, which deservedly won Italian Sweet Wine Trophy.

There were also Golds from the south, for the deservedly fashionable Fiano: Agricola Bellaria Fiano di Avellino "Peppino" 2017; for the islands, with Sardinia claiming Vernaccia di Oristano Trophy for the extraordinary Silvio Carta Vernaccia di Oristano Riserva 1968.

A wine made from Vermentino grapes took the Italian White Trophy, the Liguria-based Cantine Lvnæ's Numero Chiuso 2015 with 96 points.

Peter said: "Delicious maritime-influenced Vermentino from Liguria beat off the challenge of a Pecorino from Marche on the opposite coast to win the Italian White Wine Trophy."

All in all, Italian winemakers were awarded a total of 28 Gold, 235 Silver and 375 Bronze medals in the competition, with an impressive 26 different grape varieties featuring amongst the Gold wines.

## NOTES TO EDITORS:

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### The International Wine Challenge

In its 36<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.

For more information on the IWC and full results, please contact the IWC team at Phipps [iwc@thisisphipps.com](mailto:iwc@thisisphipps.com) : +44 (0) 20 7759 7400 : 17 Exeter Street, London, WC2E 7DU, UK