



PHIPPS

PRESS INFORMATION

17th March 2020

International Wine Challenge Judging Postponed due to Coronavirus

In light of the global COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on everybody, the International Wine Challenge (IWC) will be postponing its April 2020 judging.

The IWC will be moving the judging process to November 2020 and results will be published just before the Christmas trading period. All existing entries will be transferred automatically to the new judging dates. The IWC aims to process all wines entered in the coming weeks ahead of a UK lockdown. All wines will then be stored in a temperature controlled wine warehouse until November. The Merchant Awards will be judged keeping to the original timeline with an award announcement in July.

Following signs of life returning to normal in mainland China, IWC China will remain open and will be judged in June as planned. More information here: www.iwcchina.com/en

Chris Ashton, Director of IWC commented, "We have been following UK Government and WHO advice and although the tasting may be small enough to be allowed to run, the fact that the judges come from all over the world makes it too significant a risk to all. Obviously, this is a very difficult situation for everyone and things are changing rapidly. I thank you for your patience and support and hopefully we will all be able to be prepared for when the virus is brought under control."

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The International Wine Challenge

In its 37th year, the International Wine Challenge is accepted as the world's most rigorous, impartial and influential wine 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.

IWC China

The International Wine Challenge China (IWC China) launched in January 2019. Its aim is to help Chinese consumers find the best wines available in the country. It is designed to work with Chinese and Asian palates to select wines that suit local preferences. As with the International Wine Challenge (IWC), the judging process remains rigorous and exhaustive to ensure all wines are tasted fairly on their own merit.

The Merchant Awards UK

The Merchant Awards UK were introduced to the IWC in 1990. A distinguished panel of judges examines each entry and, over the course of two days, decides on the winners for each category. The judges focus on the business side of retailing; it's not just about having great wines. This year the judging panel comprised Laura Jewell MW, Helen McGinn, Angela Mount, Peter McCombie MW and Charles Metcalfe. Laure Patry joined the team to assist with the judging of the Restaurant Wine List award

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