



**10 Best Wines in the World as judged at the International Wine Challenge 2021**



*Château Gris, Maison Albert Bichot*

The International Wine Challenge, the world’s most influential, impartial and rigorously judged wine competition, has announced the 10 highest scoring wines from its 2021 competition.

Winners from eight countries were named the top wines of the competition, having proven themselves to be the absolute finest in their categories following multiple stages of intensive blind-tastings by a panel of leading global experts from across the industry. Five of these outstanding wines have been awarded the ultimate accolade of Champion, which is given to wines that are considered the absolute 'best in show', beating all other National Trophy winners in the categories of red, white, sparkling, sweet and fortified.

**10 Best Wines in the World as judged by the International Wine Challenge 2021:**

France	Clos de la Roche Grand Cru Cuvée Cyrot Chaudron Hospices de Beaune 2019, Maison Albert Bichot	<b>IWC Champion Red Wine 2021</b> , International Pinot Noir Trophy, French Red Trophy, Red Burgundy Trophy
France	Vintage 2008, Piper-Heidsieck	<b>IWC Champion Sparkling Wine 2021</b> , Champagne Trophy, Vintage Classic Blend Champagne Trophy
Greece	Sigalas Santorini Barrel 2020, Domaine Sigalas	<b>IWC Champion White Wine 2021</b> , Greek White Trophy
Italy	Vinsanto di Carmignano Capezzana Riserva 2013, Tenuta Di Capezzana	<b>IWC Champion Sweet Wine 2021</b> , Italian Sweet Trophy
Spain	Lustau Palo Cortado V.O.R.S 30 Years, Emilio Lustau	<b>IWC Champion Fortified Wine 2021</b> , Sherry Trophy, Palo Cortado Trophy
Australia	Wolf Blass Grey Label McLaren Vale Shiraz 2019, Wolf Blass Wines	<b>International Shiraz Trophy</b> , McLaren Vale Shiraz Trophy

Austria	Sauvignon Blanc Kitzreck-Sausal Südsteiermark 2019, Weingut Schneeberger	<b>International Sauvignon Blanc Trophy</b> , Austrian Sauvignon Blanc Trophy
France	Corton Charlemagne Grand Cru Domaine du Pavillon 2019, Maison Albert Bichot	<b>IWC Organic Trophy 2021</b> , International Chardonnay Trophy, French White Trophy, White Burgundy Trophy
Germany	Erbacher Siegelsberg Riesling Grosses Gewächs 2015, Weingut Schloss Reinhartshausen	<b>International Riesling Trophy</b> , German White Trophy
New Zealand	Valli Pinot Noir Gibbston Vineyard 2019, Valli Vineyards	<b>IWC Sustainable Trophy 2021</b> , New Zealand Red Trophy, Central Otago Pinot Noir Trophy

France was this year's highest performing country, with three wines included in the top 10 as well as winning the most medals across the entire competition.

Not one but two wines from **Maison Albert Bichot** featured in the top 10; **Clos de la Roche Grand Cru Cuvée Cyrot Chaudron Hospices de Beaune 2019** beat wines from over 50 countries to be awarded the **Champion Red Trophy** in this year's competition whilst **Corton Charlemagne Grand Cru Domaine du Pavillon 2019** was declared the best Chardonnay of 2021, winning the **International Chardonnay Trophy** and **IWC Organic Trophy 2021**. **Piper-Heidsieck** delivered great results for Champagne, winning the **Champion Sparkling Trophy** for its **Vintage 2008 Champagne**, whilst its Chef de Cave **Emilien Boutillat** was named **IWC Sparkling Winemaker of the Year**. This year's awards also saw **Christophe Briotet** from **Edouard Delaunay** declared **IWC White Winemaker of the Year**.

Spain's reputation for world-class fortified wine was left in no doubt in this year's competition. **Emilio Lustau** was awarded the highest accolade for fortified wine in the competition, winning the **Champion Fortified Trophy** for its **Lustau Palo Cortado V.O.R.S 30 Years**, whilst Lustau's Cellar Master, **Sergio Martínez**, was named **IWC Fortified Winemaker of the Year**. This builds on the wider success of winemakers across Spain in this year's awards with **Montecastro Reserva 2016** from **Bodegas Montecastro** winning the **Spanish Red Trophy** and **Agro de Bazán** the **Spanish White Trophy** for **Granbazán Etiqueta Ámbar 2019**.

Home to thousands of indigenous grape varieties, it was a sweet wine from Tuscany made with Trebbiano and San Colombano that impressed the judges this year and secured Italy's place in the top 10. **Tenuta Di Capezzana** was awarded the **Champion Sweet Wine Trophy** for **Vinsanto di Carmignano Capezzana Riserva 2013**, with judges describing it as '*delectable*'. In the wider competition, Tuscany also impressed the judges this year with its white wine; **Vermentino Maremma Toscana Tenuta Aquilaia 2020** from **Tenuta Aquilaia** received the **Italian White Trophy**. Further north in Veneto, **Santa Sofia** was awarded the **Italian Red Trophy** for **Amarone Della Valpolicella Classico Riserva 2012**.

**Co-Chair Tim Atkin MW** commented: '*With wines from over 50 countries entered into the IWC and each wine judged purely on its merit, it's impossible to predict which wines will come out on top in any given year, which is what makes the competition so exciting. It's great to see lesser-known wines such as the Austrian Sauvignon Blanc and an Assyrtiko from Greece standing alongside more familiar names in this year's top 10 scoring wines.*'

The full list of Trophy and Champion award winners at the 2021 International Wine Challenge released on 30<sup>th</sup> June can be found at [here](#).

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**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

**The International Wine Challenge**

In its 38<sup>th</sup> year, the International Wine Challenge is accepted as the world's most rigorous, impartial and influential wine competition. The International Wine Challenge 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 displayed on winning bottles offer a trusted guarantee of quality.

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