



PHIPPS

British supermarkets take top medals at International Wine Challenge and medal results show UK wine industry expanding beyond the south

With lockdown restrictions easing and social diaries quickly filling up with picnics, BBQs and dinner parties, we'll all be looking to find the perfect bottle to share with friends and family. Luckily, the International Wine Challenge, the world's most influential, impartial and rigorously judged wine competition, has just announced the winners of this year's competition, many of which are available to pick up at your local supermarket or independent wine merchant.

Thousands of wines from over 50 countries were judged by a panel of international wine experts in a rigorous two-week blind tasting, run under Covid safe measures, in London, this April, with the best wines awarded medals to help consumers make great wine choices.

Award-winning consumer choice at UK supermarkets

UK supermarkets revealed the quality available on their wine aisles, with 591 medals awarded overall, 430 of which were for own label wines. Morrisons lists the highest number of award-winners – 109 in total – with Tesco hot on its heels with 108.

Aldi and Tesco achieved the most Gold Medals for own label wines, bringing home two Golds each, Aldi for its **Pinot Vigilante Central Otago Pinot Noir 2019** and **Fletchers 40 Year Old Tawny Port NV** and Tesco for the **Tesco Finest Tingleup Riesling 2020** and **Tesco Finest Margaux 2015**. Morrisons took home Gold for **Morrisons The Best Amarone 2017** and Waitrose was awarded the only Gold medal for an own-label sherry, **Waitrose & Partners Nº1 Fino del Puerto Don Luis**.

'Each year, a dedicated, expert team of judges at the International Wine Challenge tastes thousands of wines in order to find the very best in class. An International Wine Challenge medal sticker helps consumers navigate the wide range of wines available on supermarket shelves in the UK and gives them confidence to make informed wine choices every time they buy.' Helen McGinn, Co-Chair of the International Wine Challenge.

The Magnificent Seven: Supermarket Gold Medal Winners



Tesco Finest Tingleup Riesling 2020, £9.00 Tesco



Paul Mas Réserve Languedoc Blanc 2020, £9.39 Waitrose



Pinot Vigilante Central Otago Pinot Noir 2019, £9.99 Aldi



Morrissions The Best Amarone 2017, £16 Morrissions



Tesco Finest Margaux 2015, £22 Tesco



Waitrose & Partners N°1 Fino del Puerto Don Luis, £11.99 Waitrose



Fletchers 40 Year Old Tawny Port, £34.99 Aldi

Overall own label supermarket medals

Supermarket Own Label Wines	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Commended	Total
Morrissions	1	20	46	30	97
Tesco	2	16	49	25	92
Aldi	2	21	33	17	73
Marks & Spencer	0	12	35	12	59
Asda	0	4	24	12	40
Waitrose	1	9	15	4	29
Co-op	0	4	11	5	20
SPAR	0	0	13	7	20

Great Value, Guaranteed

The IWC also announced the winners of its IWC Great Value Award winners, which saw three Waitrose own brand wines receiving Great Value Awards, closely followed by Morrissions and Tesco.

IWC Great Value Award winners 2021

IWC Great Value Awards 2021	Wine	Price	Stockist
White under £8	Morrissions Soave 2020	£4.35	Morrissions
White between £8 and £12	Paul Mas Réserve Languedoc Blanc 2020	£9.39	Waitrose
White under £15	Klein Constantia Sauvignon Blanc 2019	£14.99	Majestic, Loki Wines, The Drinkshop.com

Rosé under £8	Pierrick Harang Wine, Le Rosé de Balthazar 2020	£7.99	Waitrose
Rosé between £8 and £12	Maison Mirabeau, Pure 2020	£11.99	Majestic
Rosé Under £15	Les Domaines Paul Mas, Jardin de Roses 2020	£13.49	Waitrose
Red under £9	Côtes du Rhône Plan de Dieu 2019	£8.00	Asda
Red between £9 and £13	Bodega Norton, Winemakers Reserve Malbec 2019	£12.99	Waitrose
Red Under £15	C.V.N.E, Maruxa Mencia 2019	£13.75	Majestic
Sparkling under £12	Waitrose & Partners No.1 Castillo Peralada Cava Brut 2018	£10.79	Waitrose
Sparkling between £12 and £20	Tesco Finest Premier Cru Champagne NV	£18.00	Tesco
Sparkling between £12 and £20	Louis Vertay Brut Champagne NV	£17.00	Marks & Spencer
Sweet under £8	Morrisons The Best Botrytis Semillon 2017	£7.25	Morrisons
Sweet under £8	Tesco Finest Dessert Semillon 2017	£6.00	Tesco
Fortified between £8 and £12	Waitrose & Partners Nº1 Fino del Puerto Don Luis NV	£11.99	Waitrose
Fortified Under £15	Graham's LBV 2015	£13.45	Asda, The Whisky Exchange, Morrisons, Waitrose
Fortified Under £15	Waitrose & Partners No.1 Reserve Tawny Port NV	£13.99	Waitrose

Quality of English and Welsh wine rises

While the south of England remains Britain's wine heartland, medal-winning wines are now being produced throughout the nation, extending out from the established south. Medals were awarded to wines in Staffordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire and Derbyshire as well as Conwy, Powys and Monmouthshire in Wales.

With such a strong medal haul, Great Britain has once again ranked in 8th position worldwide for Gold Medals. Wines from 21 counties across England and Wales were awarded medals including 12 Gold, 48 Silver, 58 Bronze and 18 Commended.

Shropshire winery, **Hencote**, took this year's only Gold medal for an English still wine, awarded to a red wine - **Mark I 2018**, made from a blend of Pinot Noir, Précoce and Rondo grapes. In particular, there was a notable boost for Staffordshire, which received six medals this year, including one Silver, two Bronze and three Commended, compared with only one Commended award last year.

Kent led the medal wins for English wines with 30 medals, three of which were Gold and also took home the **English Sparkling Trophy** with **The Squerryes Partnership Squerryes Blanc de Blancs 2014**, which also won the **English Sparkling Blanc de Blancs Trophy**. The **English Sparkling Classic Blend Trophy** was awarded to **Squerryes Brut 2011**.

In Hampshire three Gold medals went to **Hattingley Valley, Raimes English Sparkling Wine** and **Grange Estate Wines**. The latter was also awarded the **English Non-Vintage Sparkling Rosé Trophy** for **The Grange Hampshire Pink NV**.

Roebuck Estates and **Artelium** in Sussex, **Greyfriars Vineyard** and **High Clandon Estate Vineyard** in Surrey and **Camel Valley** in Cornwall were also recipients of Gold medals. **Roebuck Estates** also received the **English Vintage Sparkling Rosé Trophy** for its **Rosé de Noirs 2016**.

Oz Clarke, one of the six co-chairs for the International Wine Challenge and author of 'English Wine' commented: *'Over the past few decades, it's been incredible to witness the progress Great Britain has been making on the world stage for its wine, especially the sparkling wines from southern England. What's really exciting to see now however, is the quality of wines we are tasting from other regions in the UK and the diverse styles being produced there.'*

The full list of award-winners in the 2021 International Wine Challenge released on 17th May can be seen [here](#). The IWC Champions 2021 winners, which are selected following a re-tasting of all trophy-winning wines by the IWC Co-Chairs, will be revealed at the IWC 2021 Awards announcement on Wednesday 30th June.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

The International Wine Challenge

In its 38th 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.

For more information on the IWC, please contact the IWC team at Phipps
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International Wine Challenge Results 2021: Top 10 Countries ranked by Gold medal wins

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Commended
France	77	419	681	205
Australia	49	261	294	83
Spain	38	207	462	249
Portugal	26	165	288	116
Italy	17	166	446	242
Argentina	14	87	129	39
South Africa	13	57	136	79
Great Britain	12	48	58	18
Austria	11	35	24	9
New Zealand	9	76	151	54

Overall supermarket medals (including own label wines)

Supermarket	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Commended	Total
Morrisons	1	20	54	34	109
Tesco	2	21	56	29	108
Asda	0	9	43	32	84
Aldi	2	22	34	21	79
Waitrose	2	19	35	20	76
Marks & Spencer	0	12	35	12	59
Co-op	0	6	18	6	30
SPAR	0	2	17	10	29
Lidl	0	3	12	2	17