



GMT 23:00, 9 September 2025

## English Sparkling Wine makes history

### First wine outside Champagne crowned Champion Sparkling Wine as International Wine Challenge 2025 awards are announced

10<sup>th</sup> September 2025 – The global wine industry raised a glass to England last night as the [International Wine Challenge](#), the world's most influential and rigorously judged wine competition, unveiled the results of its highly anticipated 2025 Awards. But the biggest surprise of the night came from England, who toppled Champagne and Australia to seize the crown for both Champion Sparkling Wine and Champion Sparkling Winemaker.



*Sparkling Winemaker of the Year, Cherie Spriggs, Head Winemaker at Nyetimber*

## English Sparkling Wines steal the show

England dominated the Champion Wines and Winemakers awards, with renowned Sussex producer Nyetimber taking centre stage. In a dramatic twist, its Nyetimber Blanc de Blancs Magnum 2016 was crowned **Champion Sparkling Wine (Daniel Thibault Trophy)**, the first time the award has gone to a wine outside of Champagne. Nyetimber's Head Winemaker, Cherie Spriggs, was also named as **Sparkling Winemaker of the Year**, making it a double triumph for an English winery that is fast becoming one of the world's most celebrated producers. **Spriggs has won the trophy before in 2018, but she is still the only woman to have done so and the only person outside France to have won twice.**

Spriggs, who has been at Nyetimber since 2007 after discovering it when her parents gifted her a bottle in 2001, commented, *'It means so much to me to have received these two trophies from a premier and globally renowned wine competition. Everything we do at Nyetimber is in pursuit of*

*quality, and awards such as these give well-earned recognition for the tireless efforts of everyone at Nyetimber.*

*We are thrilled to be recognised as the best sparkling wine in the world with the Champion Sparkling Wine trophy for our Blanc de Blancs 2016 Magnum. Blanc de Blancs is a very special wine for us, as it was the first wine to have ever been created at Nyetimber – so this feels like a very significant ‘first’ for English sparkling wine. Winning both of these trophies really brings to life the pioneering vision of Eric Heerema and the belief that I share with him that England really is the best place in the world to be making traditional method sparkling wines.’*

England’s winning streak continued with the trophy for **Best Wine in First Year of Production** awarded to the Seyval Blanc, Brut 2017 from Kingsthorpe in Gloucestershire. This new name in wine not only secured the English Seyval Sparkling Trophy earlier in the year but also achieved the extraordinary feat of outperforming wines in their first year of production from every other country in the competition.

## International Wine Challenge UK Industry Awards

There was plenty of cause for celebration, with UK businesses of all sizes recognised in the prestigious Industry Awards, which were presented to 36 wine and retail companies nationwide to recognise the dedication and creativity of those who help share the joy of wine with consumers across the UK.

In the supermarket category, Tesco impressed with three Industry Awards, the most Industry Awards won by a single company this year, taking home **Own Label Range of the Year, Supermarket of the Year** and **Buying Team of the Year**.

The **Great Value Champion Wines** are one of the most anticipated awards at the International Wine Challenge as they shine a spotlight on the supermarkets delivering unbeatable quality at everyday prices. With all wines costing under £15 (or £25 for sparkling), these awards help consumers cut through the shelves of choice to find bottles that truly over-deliver. This year’s winners, Tesco, ASDA, Sainsbury’s, and M&S proved they know how to bring exceptional wine to shoppers without breaking the bank, earning them the coveted **Great Value Champion Awards** (see below).

## Great Value Champion Wines

<b>IWC Great Value Champion Sparkling 2025</b>	Exceptional Prosecco Brut NV, Asda	<a href="#">£7.52 from ASDA</a>
<b>IWC Great Value Champion White 2025</b>	The Ned Pinot Grigio 2024, Marisco Vineyards	<a href="#">£11 from Sainsbury’s</a>
<b>IWC Great Value Champion Rosé 2025</b>	M&S Collection Côtes de Provence Rosé Sainte-Victoire 2023, Paul Sapin - La Verchere	<a href="#">£14.99 from M&amp;S</a>
<b>IWC Great Value Champion Red 2025</b>	Exceptional Great Western Shiraz 2022, Asda	<a href="#">£7.98 from ASDA</a>
<b>IWC Great Value Champion Sweet 2025</b>	Tesco Finest Sauternes 2016, Vignobles Dumon	<a href="#">£12 from Tesco</a>

<b>IWC Great Value Champion Fortified 2025</b>	Tesco Finest 10 Year Old Tawny Port NV, Tesco	<a href="#">£14.50 from Tesco</a>
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Continuing in the retail sector, Majestic took home the award for **Large Multiple Retailer of the Year**, having also won **Rosé Specialist of the Year** and The Wine Society was awarded **Online Retailer of the Year**, also taking home **Sustainable Retailer of the Year**.

The **Restaurant Wine List of the Year** went to Corkage, an independent wine restaurant in Bath celebrated for its extensive wine list including skin contact and orange wines all categorised by wine style, with wines not only offered by the glass and bottle but also by Coravin.

## Industry Awards

The full list of industry awards is here:

Category	Winner	Region
Restaurant Wine List of the Year	Corkage	Bath, Somerset
IWC Own Label Range of the Year 2025	Tesco	National
Agent of the Year (Small)	Graft Wine	London
Agent of the Year (Medium)	North South Wines	Bicester, Oxfordshire
Agent of the Year (Large)	Hallgarten & Novum Wines	Luton, Bedfordshire
Buying Team of the Year	Tesco	National
On-Trade Wine Supplier of the Year	Hallgarten & Novum Wines	Luton, Bedfordshire
Trade Educator of the Year	Liberty Wines	London
Consumer Communicator of the Year	Local Wine School	National
Single to Multiple Site Retailer of the Year	Highbury Vintners	London
Large Multiple Retailer of the Year	Majestic	National
Online Retailer of the Year	The Wine Society	National
Wine Club of the Year	Wee Vinoteca	Hitchin, Hertfordshire
Supermarket of the Year	Tesco	National
Champagne & Sparkling Retailer of the Year	House of Townend	Melton, Yorkshire
Australian Specialist of The Year	Liberty Wines	London
France Specialist of The Year	Yapp Brothers Ltd	Sparkford, Somerset
GB Specialist of The Year	Grape Britannia	Cambridge, Cambridgeshire
Germany Specialist of The Year	The Wine Barn	Winchester, Hampshire
Italy Specialist of The Year	Liberty Wines	London
Rosé Specialist of the Year	Majestic Wine	National
Sake Specialist of The Year	Tengu Sake Limited	Moreton-in-marsh, Gloucestershire
South Africa Specialist of The Year	New Generation Wines	London
South America Specialist of The Year	Hispamerchants	London
Spain & Portugal Specialist of The Year	Indigo Wine	London

Sustainable Retailer of the Year	The Wine Society	National
'Unsung' Specialist of The Year (for smaller wine categories)	Wine Origins	London
Regional merchant - Northern England	Bon Coeur Fine Wines	Melsonby, Yorkshire
Regional merchant - Northern Ireland	James Nicholson Wine Limited	Downpatrick, Northern Ireland
Regional merchant - London & South East	Highbury Vintners	London
Regional merchant - Central England	Mr & Mrs Fine Wine	Southwell, Nottinghamshire
Regional merchant - Eastern England	Vino Gusto	Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk
Regional merchant - South West	Givino Ltd	Frome, Somerset
Regional merchant - Wales	Mumbles Fine Wines	Mumbles, Wales
Regional merchant - Scotland	Woodwinters Wines & Whiskies	Edinburgh, Scotland

**Chris Ashton, Director, International Wine Challenge**, said, *'It's fantastic to see England shining so brightly this year. It proves that our wines can compete, and win, on the global stage. Congratulations to all the winners of the Industry Awards. Each award is a testament to the depth, innovation and calibre of UK wine businesses and the vital role that they play in helping the UK wine trade thrive.'*

The full list of IWC award winners can be seen [here](#), and the winners of the IWC Industry Awards can be seen [here](#).

**ENDS**

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### The International Wine Challenge

In its 41<sup>st</sup> year, the International Wine Challenge is widely acknowledged as the world's most rigorous, impartial, influential and global wine competition. The International Wine Challenge assesses every wine 'blind' in two rounds in London over a two-week period with every decision scrutinised by the co-chairs: Tim Atkin MW, Sam Caporn MW, Oz Clarke, Dr Jamie Goode, Peter McCombie MW and Helen McGinn. Each wine is judged for its faithfulness to style, region and vintage. Awards include medals (Gold, Silver, Bronze) and Commended, and 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 International Wine Challenge, or to arrange an interview with Cherie Spriggs please contact the IWC team at Phipps [iwc@thisisphipps.com](mailto:iwc@thisisphipps.com) +44 (0) 20 8050 6073