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International Wine Challenge 2025 Champions Crowned Champion Wines and Winemakers revealed



Left: Cherie Spriggs, Head Winemaker, Nyetimber; Right: Sergio Martínez, Winemaker, Bodegas Emilio Lustau

10th September 2025 - The [International Wine Challenge](#), the world's most influential, impartial and rigorously judged global wine competition, has announced the Champion wines and winemakers of its 2025 competition. Following a series of intensive blind tastings by an international panel of over 250 experts, five wines from five countries were awarded the ultimate honour of a Champion title in the categories of red, white, sparkling, sweet, and fortified wines. The International Wine Challenge has also announced the five Winemakers of the Year in the same categories, with winners named from England, France, New Zealand, Spain, and Austria.

Champion Sparkling Wine goes to ENGLAND

England set a new benchmark for itself on the global wine stage in this year's challenge, climbing to ninth place and claiming 15 Gold medals, up from 13 in 2024, but the nation's biggest triumph came for English Sparkling Wine, an increasingly world-renowned category for such a small producing country.

- In an incredible first, an English wine was awarded **Champion Sparkling Wine (Daniel Thibault Trophy)**, marking the first time the award has gone to a wine outside of Champagne. **Nyetimber's** Blanc de Blancs Magnum 2016, took home the enviable accolade, building on its success after securing both the *English Sparkling Trophy* and the *English Blanc*

de Blancs Trophy with the same wine. Judges described the bubbly as ‘a time capsule of a wine’.

- In a double triumph, Nyetimber’s Head Winemaker **Cherie Spriggs** was also named **Sparkling Winemaker of the Year**. **Even though she has won the trophy before in 2018, she is still the first ever woman to have done so and the only person outside France to have won twice.**
- Newcomer **Kingsthorpe** – a Gloucestershire-based winery – proved it is one to watch after its Seyval Blanc, Brut 2017 was named **Best Wine in First Year of Production**, further consolidating England’s achievement in this year’s challenge.

Spriggs commented on the wins, ‘*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 Magnum 2016. 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.*’

Burgundy, the undisputed jewel of FRANCE

France once again earned the top spot in this year’s competition, extending its winning streak with 94 Gold medals and reinforcing the nation’s legacy as the standard for excellence in winemaking. Burgundian red wine received particular recognition, taking home two of the ten Champion accolades.

- **Maison Albert Bichot**, the historic Beaune producer, outshone its competitors with two of the most coveted accolades of the IWC: **Red Winemaker of the Year**, which was awarded to Technical Director **Matthieu Mangenot**, and **Champion Red Wine** for its ‘*perfectly ripe*’ and ‘*beautiful*’ Clos de la Roche Grand Cru Hospices de Beaune Cuvée Cyrot Chaudron 2023.
- Earlier this year, the same wine also claimed four trophies including the *International Pinot Noir Trophy* and *French Red Trophy*, contributing to the seven Gold medals and 11 trophies won across Bichot’s outstanding portfolio, making it the most awarded winery of this year’s competition.

Mangenot said, ‘*Winning Red Winemaker of the Year is a tremendous honour. It reflects not only my journey but also the passion and hard work of everyone at Albert Bichot who are committed to crafting wines that truly reflect their terroir.*’

AUSTRALIA reclaims Champion White Wine title

Australia cemented its reputation as a powerhouse of fine wine, clinching third place in this year’s competition with 51 Gold medals and 15 trophies. Tasmania, famed for its exceptional Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, stood tall with three key trophies and one Champion accolade.

- **Tolpuddle Vineyard** took home the sought-after title of **Champion White Wine** for its Chardonnay 2023, claiming back the title after last winning the award for its Chardonnay in 2020. Judges praised the winning wine as *'confident', 'complex', and 'alluring'*.
- Earlier this year, the same wine won four trophies including the *International Chardonnay Trophy* and *Australian White Trophy*, with the winery's Pinot Noir 2023 also claiming the *Australian Red Trophy* and *Australian Pinot Noir Trophy*.

NEW ZEALAND strengthens global reputation

New Zealand continued its rise as a force in global winemaking, ranking sixth overall in this year's competition with 32 Gold medals – nine more than last year – and ten trophies. The nation's consistency and quality was further underlined with a Champion accolade for one of its winemakers.

- **Brent Marris**, Founder and Winemaker of **Marisco Vineyards**, earned the title of **White Winemaker of the Year**, marking just the second time New Zealand has won the impressive award.
- Marisco Vineyards saw further success for both its Chardonnay 2023 and Pinot Noir 2023 in this year's challenge, picking up with *Marlborough Chardonnay Trophy* and *Marlborough Pinot Noir Trophy* respectively.

Marris said of the win, *'To be recognised with such an accolade in a global competition is truly humbling. It is a testament to the dedication of our team at Marisco Vineyards, and also to the New Zealand wine industry as a whole.'*

Sherry leads the charge for SPAIN

Spain consolidated its reputation for world-class wines this year, coming in second place in terms of overall medal count, but it was fortified wines that won two Champion accolades.

- Jerez spearheaded Spain's success in the wider competition, winning 20 of the nation's 34 Gold medals and taking home more trophies than any other Spanish region, with a total of six.
- The historic **Bodegas Emilio Lustau** demonstrated itself as the uncontested powerhouse of fortified wine, winning both of the category's Champion accolades. The **Champion Fortified Wine (Manuel Lozano Trophy)** title was awarded to its Amontillado Botaina Edición Limitada En Rama NV, which was commended by judges as *'intensely flavoured'* and *'amazingly poised'*. This marks the fifth consecutive year that Jerez (Sherry) has taken the top prize, with the same Sherry being recognised earlier this year with the *Sherry Trophy* and *Amontillado Trophy*.
- Cellar Master **Sergio Martínez** secured the highly coveted **Fortified Winemaker of the Year** award for the sixth time and the second year in a row.

Martínez said of the achievement, *'Each time I have received this award it has been a great honour. Winning it for the sixth time and in consecutive years is especially meaningful, and I share this recognition with the entire team at Lustau who make it possible.'*

Sweet success for ITALY continues

With a total of 322 medals, Italy secured fifth place in this year's competition, but it was once again a sweet wine that took the top spot.

- For the second year in a row, Tuscan producer **Tenuta Di Capezzana** won the **Champion Sweet Wine (Alois Kracher Trophy)** title for its Vin Santo di Carmignano Riserva 2017 – a title won by previous vintages of the same wine in 2022, 2021, and 2019. Judges praised the wine's '*intense aromas*', '*richness*', and '*mouthwatering acidity*'.

Winning streak for AUSTRIAN winemaker

Burgenland producer Hans Tschida once again impressed judges for his sweet winemaking.

- For the fifth year in a row, **Hans Tschida** from **Weingut Angerhof Tschida** has been awarded **Sweet Winemaker of the Year**. Tschida has now won this award 11 times since 2010. In this year's challenge, his sweet wines won two prized trophies including the *Austrian Sweet Trophy*.

Reflecting on his winning streak, Tschida said, '*It is always a privilege to receive this recognition. To be named Sweet Winemaker of the Year once again is a reflection of my lifelong passion for sweet wines and the unique character of our vineyards at Angerhof Tschida.*'

IWC Champion Wines 2025

England	Blanc de Blancs Magnum 2016, Nyetimber	IWC Champion Sparkling Wine 2025 - Daniel Thibault Trophy , English Sparkling Trophy, English Blanc de Blancs Trophy
	Seyval Blanc, Brut 2016, Kingsthorpe	IWC Best Wine in First Year of Production 2025 , English Seyval Sparkling Trophy
France	Clos de la Roche Grand Cru Hospices de Beaune Cuvée Cyrot Chaudron 2023, Maison Albert Bichot	IWC Champion Red Wine 2025 , International Pinot Noir Trophy, French Pinot Noir Trophy, Clos de la Roche Trophy
Australia	Chardonnay 2023, Tolpuddle Vineyard	IWC Champion White Wine 2025 , International Chardonnay Trophy, Australian White Trophy, Australian Chardonnay Trophy, Tasmanian Chardonnay Trophy
Spain	Amontillado Botaina Edicion Limitada En Rama NV, Bodegas Emilio Lustau	IWC Champion Fortified Wine 2025 - Manuel Lozano Trophy , Sherry Trophy, Amontillado Trophy
Italy	Vin Santo di Carmignano Riserva 2017, Tenuta Di Capezzana	IWC Champion Sweet Wine 2025 - Alois Kracher Trophy , Italian Sweet Trophy, Vin Santo Trophy

IWC Winemakers of the Year 2025

England	Cherie Spriggs, Nyetimber	IWC Sparkling Winemaker of the Year 2025
France	Matthieu Mangenot, Maison Albert Bichot	IWC Red Winemaker of the Year 2025
New Zealand	Brent Marris, Marisco Vineyards	IWC White Winemaker of the Year 2025
Spain	Sergio Martínez, Emilio Lustau	IWC Fortified Winemaker of the Year 2025
Austria	Hans Tschida, Weingut Angerhof Tschida	IWC Sweet Winemaker of the Year 2025

Chris Ashton, Director, International Wine Challenge, said, *'This year's competition saw more medals awarded than ever before, reflecting the exceptional standard of winemaking worldwide. With such competition, against thousands of entries, winning the distinction of a Champion title is a huge honour.'*

The full list of Trophy and Champion winners at the 2025 International Wine Challenge announced on 9th September can be viewed [here](#).

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

In its 41st 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, please contact the IWC team at Phipps

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