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International Wine Challenge 2025 names eight Australian and six New Zealand wines amongst best in the world



Left to right: Tolpuddle Vineyard, Tasmania, winner of Champion White Wine; Church Road Winery, winner of International Chardonnay Trophy

10th September 2025 - The [International Wine Challenge](#), the world's most influential, impartial and rigorously judged global wine competition, has announced the highest scoring wines in the competition from across Australia and New Zealand. Whilst nine countries earned a position in the top ranks, Australia and New Zealand shone bright.

AUSTRALIA

Australia reclaims Champion White Wine title

Australia came third to France and Spain in its haul of medals this year and impressed the judges with its remarkable breadth from elegant Bordeaux style blends from Margaret River to the vibrant cool-climate Pinot Noirs from Tasmania. There were standout entries across fortified and sparkling too. With 51 Golds, 220 Silvers and 122 Bronzes, Australia firmly held its title as the leading 'new world' nation.

Excitingly, Australia reclaimed its **Champion White Wine** title with Tasmanian producer **Tolpuddle Vineyard** taking 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 it for its *'ethereal yet confident character, with beautifully integrated spice notes and cool fruit'*.

Earlier this year, the same wine won four trophies including the *International Chardonnay Trophy* and *Australian White Trophy*, with judges praising the winning wine as ‘confident’, ‘complex’, and ‘alluring’.

Australia further highlights:

- Tolpuddle Vineyard also won the *Australian Pinot Noir Trophy* for its Pinot Noir 2023 with judges praising its ‘balance of bright red fruit and elegant structure’.
- Family winery, **Morris Wines**, known for its six generations of winemaking heritage, has become synonymous with the production of world-class fortified wines and won several trophies for its fortified wines. Its Old Premium Rare Muscat won the *Australian Fortified Trophy* and the *Muscat Trophy*, impressing judges with its ‘highly complex nose’ and ‘impressive length and complexity’. Its Old Premium Rare Tawny also won the *Rutherglen Fortified Trophy*.
- **Ponting Wines**, a collaboration between one of Australia’s most celebrated cricketers, Ricky Ponting, and Ben Riggs, an award-winning Australian winemaker, is known for uncompromising, superb quality wines. The duo bowled over the judges by winning the *Australian Shiraz Trophy* for its 127 Milestone 2022, which was praised as ‘immediately appealing and inviting’.

Co-chair Peter McCombie MW added: ‘Not so long ago, the words ‘cool climate Australia’ would have been an oxymoron, but some of our favourite Australian wines in this year’s competition came from cool-climate regions. Stylish, mineral Chardonnays from maritime zones and fresh, succulent Pinot Noirs, notably from Tasmania, were among the highlights.’

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand earns six top spots:

New Zealand proved its growing dominance on the international winemaking scene, coming in at sixth place, winning 32 Gold medals, nine more than last year, as well as 121 Silvers, and 98 Bronzes. It also claimed three places in the International Wine Challenge top Champion wines, more than any other country in the 2025 challenge.

Renowned Marlborough estate **Villa Maria** shone with its Reserve Coastal Awatere Sauvignon Blanc 2024, which secured both the *International Sauvignon Blanc Trophy* and the *New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc Trophy*. Judges hailed it as a ‘cracking Sauvignon Blanc’ with ‘all the chilly thrill of Awatere’s blustery seaside gales’.

While the nation is famed for its Sauvignon Blanc, two standout reds also dazzled the panel. **Church Road** from Hawke’s Bay and with over 125 years of heritage, collected three trophies, including the prestigious *International Merlot Trophy*, for its 1 Merlot 2021, praised as ‘youthful’, ‘impressive’, and ‘spicy’.

Meanwhile, **Glenora Estate** from Waiheke Island known for its Bordeaux blends and Syrah wines, earned the *International Syrah Trophy* for its ‘succulent and smooth’ Syrah 2024.

Australian and New Zealand wines judged best in show at IWC 2025

Australia	Chardonnay 2023, Tolpuddle Vineyard	Champion White Wine , International Chardonnay Trophy, Australian White Trophy, Australian Chardonnay Trophy, Tasmanian Chardonnay Trophy
	Pinot Noir 2023, Tolpuddle Vineyard	Australian Red Trophy, Australian Pinot Noir Trophy
	Museum Release Blanc de Blancs 2006, House of Arras	Australian Sparkling Trophy
	Deen Vat 5 Botrytis Semillon 2021, De Bortoli Wines	Botrytis Trophy
	Old Premium Rare Muscat NV, Morris Wines	Muscat Trophy, Australian Fortified Trophy
	127 Milestone 2022, Ponting Wines	Australian Shiraz Trophy, Barossa Valley Shiraz Trophy
	Bin 169 Cabernet Sauvignon, Penfolds 2022, Treasury Wine Estates	Australian Cabernet Sauvignon Trophy, Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon Trophy
	McGuigan Bin 9000 Semillon 2017, Australian Vintage Limited	Australian Semillon Trophy, Hunter Valley Semillon Trophy
New Zealand	1 Merlot 2021, Church Road	International Merlot Trophy, New Zealand Merlot Trophy, Gimblett Gravels Merlot Trophy
	Syrah 2024, Glenora Estate	International Syrah Trophy, New Zealand Syrah, Waiheke Island Syrah Trophy
	Reserve Coastal Awatere Sauvignon Blanc 2024, Villa Maria	International Sauvignon Blanc Trophy, New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc Trophy
	Caroline's Pinot Noir 2021, Clos Ostler	New Zealand Red Trophy, New Zealand Pinot Noir Trophy, North Otago Pinot Noir Trophy
	Grand Reserve Chardonnay 2022, Church Road	New Zealand White Trophy, New Zealand Chardonnay Trophy, Hawke's Bay Chardonnay Trophy
	Letter Series B Late Harvest Sauvignon Blanc 2023, Brancott Estate	Late Harvest Dessert Trophy

'Rest of world' wines judged best in show at IWC 2025

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 Red Trophy, Clos de la Roche Trophy, French Pinot Noir Trophy
	Chablis Grand Cru Les Vaudésirs Domaine Long-Depaquit 2023, Maison Albert Bichot	Chablis Trophy, Les Vaudésirs Chardonnay
	Meursault 1er Cru Les Charmes Domaine du Pavillon 2023, Maison Albert Bichot	French White Trophy, French Chardonnay Trophy, Meursault Trophy, Les Charmes Trophy
	Cuvée L'Esprit Terroir 2023, Château Rouquette sur Mer	International GSM Trophy, French GSM Trophy, La Clape Trophy
	Le Clos Lanson Blanc de Blanc 2010, Champagne Lanson	Champagne Trophy, Vintage Champagne Trophy, Vintage Blanc de Blancs Champagne Trophy
	Henriot Cuve 38 - La Réserve Perpétuelle Blanc de Blancs, Edition 6, Champagne Henriot	Non-Vintage Champagne Trophy, Non-Vintage Blanc de Blancs Champagne Trophy
Spain	Amontillado Botaina Edicion Limitada En Rama NV, Emilio Lustau	IWC Champion Fortified Wine 2025 - Manuel Lozano Trophy , Sherry Trophy, Amontillado Trophy
	Con Gracia de Rioja Vega 2020, Rioja Vega	Spanish Red Trophy, Rioja Trophy, Rioja Graciano Trophy
	Mencía 2022, Pazo de La Cuesta	Spanish Red Trophy, Ribeira Sacra Mencia Trophy
Italy	Vin Santo Capezzana Riserva 2017, Tenuta Di Capezzana	IWC Champion Sweet Wine 2025 - Alois Kracher Trophy , Italian Sweet Trophy, Vin Santo Trophy
	Schioppettino Di Prepotto Fco 2019, Vigna Traverso	Italian Red Trophy, Schioppettino Friuli-Venezia Giulia Trophy
	Viridis Classico 2024, La Canosa Agr. Srl	Italian White Trophy, Marche White Trophy
	Crede Brut, Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore 2024, Bisol1542	Italian Sparkling Trophy, Prosecco Trophy
South Africa	Grand Vin Selection Cabernet Sauvignon 2022, La Grand Domaine	International Cabernet Sauvignon Trophy, Stellenbosch Cabernet Sauvignon Trophy
	Jean Le Long Prestige Cuvee 2012, Boschendal Wines	South African Sparkling Trophy
	STELLA 2022, Beau Constantia	South African Red Trophy, South African Syrah Trophy

	White 2023, Vergelegen Estate	South African White Trophy, Stellenbosch Semillon /SB blend Trophy
Argentina	Phebus Gran Reserva Malbec 2023, Bodega Fabre	International Malbec Trophy, Mendoza Malbec Trophy
	La Isabel Estate Cofermented Blend 2023, Huentala Wines	Argentinian Red Trophy, Argentinian Malbec Blend Trophy
England	Nyetimber Blanc de Blancs Magnum 2016, Nyetimber	IWC Champion Sparkling Wine 2025 - Daniel Thibault Trophy , English Sparkling Trophy, English Blanc de Blancs Trophy
	Pinot Noir 2021, Lyme Bay	English Red Trophy, English Pinot Noir Trophy
	Martin's Lane Chardonnay 2020, Lyme Bay	English White Trophy, English Chardonnay Trophy
Austria	Riesling Ried Heiligenstein 1öTw Kamptal Dac 2023, Weingut Birgit Eichinger	International Riesling Trophy, Austrian White Trophy, Niederösterreich Riesling Trophy
	Sämling 88 Beerenauslese 2021, Weingut Tschida Angerhof	Austrian Sweet Trophy

Chris Ashton, Director, International Wine Challenge said, *‘This year’s competition saw a record number of medals awarded, showcasing the remarkable standard of winemaking across the globe. Australia and New Zealand both achieved an incredible amount of both medals and trophies and to claim 14 places in the top wines from the competition between them is an extraordinary honour. The wines featured in this list truly represent the very best of the best in the world.’*

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

ENDS

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 team at Phipps

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