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## International Wine Challenge reveals the world's highest scoring wines of 2025



*Left to right: Matthieu Mangenot, Technical Director, Maison Albert Bichot; Sergio Martínez, Cellar Master, Bodegas Emilio Lustau*

10<sup>th</sup> 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 the globe. Nine countries earned a position in the top ranks, which features the wines awarded the most Champion accolades, international trophies, and national trophies.

### FRANCE

#### Burgundy and Languedoc lead the charge for France

France once again proved why it's the undisputed titan of the wine world, extending its winning streak with a commanding lead in this year's competition. Its powerhouse regions – Bordeaux, Burgundy and Champagne – not only outshone the global field, but each region individually scored more Gold and total medals than most entire countries. With 94 Gold, 402 Silver and 379 Bronze, France reinforced its legacy as the benchmark for excellence in winemaking.

Notably, **Maison Albert Bichot**, the historic Beaune producer, outshone its competitors with its Clos de la Roche Grand Cru Hospices de Beaune Cuvée Cyrot Chaudron 2023, described by judges as 'perfectly ripe' and 'beautiful'. The wine received the prestigious **Champion Red Wine** accolade, having claimed four trophies earlier this year including the *International Pinot Noir Trophy* and *French Red Trophy*.

Maison Albert Bichot's Technical Director **Matthieu Mangenot** was also named **Red Winemaker of the Year**, making the winery the most awarded in this year's competition.

Languedoc estate **Château Rouquette Sur Mer** impressed with its '*restrained, well defined*' Cuvée L'Esprit Terroir 2023, which claimed three trophies including the *International Grenache, Syrah, and Mourvèdre Trophy*.

#### France further highlights:

- The *Champagne Trophy and Vintage Champagne Trophy* went to **Champagne Lanson** for its Le Clos Lanson Blanc de Blanc 2010, which judges praised as '*Champagne at its glorious best*'.
- The *Non-Vintage Champagne Trophy* went to **Champagne Henriot** for its '*classy*' and '*lush*' Henriot Cuve 38 - La Réserve Perpétuelle Blanc de Blancs Edition 6.
- Maison Albert Bichot picked up further wins for its Chablis Grand Cru Les Vaudésirs Domaine Long-Depaquit 2023 (*Chablis Trophy*) and Meursault 1er Cru Les Charmes Domaine du Pavillon 2023 (*French Chardonnay Trophy, French White Trophy*).

## SPAIN

### Sherry spearheads success for Spain

Spain made a powerful statement this year – not just with bold reds but with an impressive sweep of white and fortified wines that showcased the country's incredible diversity. Climbing to second place in the global rankings, Spain took home 32 Golds, 242 Silvers, and 202 Bronzes. Leading the charge was Jerez (Sherry) with 20 of Spain's 34 Golds and claimed more trophies than any other Spanish region with six in total. Not far behind, Rioja continued to prove its pedigree collecting five trophies of its own.

The historic **Bodegas Emilio Lustau** asserted itself as the uncontested powerhouse of fortified wine, winning both of the category's Champion accolades. Its Amontillado Botaina Edición Limitada En Rama NV was crowned **Champion Fortified Wine (Manuel Lozano Trophy)**, with judges commending it as '*intensely flavoured*' and '*amazingly poised*'. Earlier this year, the same Sherry triumphed with the *Sherry Trophy and Amontillado Trophy*.

Cellar Master **Sergio Martínez** also secured the highly coveted **Fortified Winemaker of the Year** award for the sixth time and the second year in a row.

#### Spain further highlights:

- The *Spanish Red Trophy* and the *Rioja Trophy* was won by **Rioja Vega** for its '*really powerful*' and '*vivid*' Con Gracia de Rioja Vega 2020.
- **Pazo de La Cuesta** also picked up the *Spanish Red Trophy* for its Mencía 2022, which was hailed as '*positively elegant*'.

## ITALY

### Sweet success for Italy continues

Italy shone this year with an array of medal-winning wines from across its many regions. From north to south, the country showcased its depth, tradition, and innovation, captivating the judges and putting it in fifth place overall. With a total of 332 medals, Italy reminded the world that its winemaking legacy is not only alive but constantly evolving.

Despite this national success, it was a sweet wine which stood out in this year's challenge. 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 applauded the wine's '*intense aromas*', '*richness*', and '*mouthwatering acidity*'.

#### Italy further highlights:

- The *Italian Red Trophy* was awarded to a wine made from the rare Schioppettino grape variety, a dark-skinned grape native to Friuli-Venezia Giulia, with **Vigna Traverso** taking home the prize with its Schioppettino Di Prepotto Fco 2019.
- The *Italian White Trophy* was awarded to **La Canosa Agr. Srl** for its Viridis Classico 2024, an '*aromatic*' and '*gorgeous*' 100% Verdicchio from the Marche region.
- **Bisol 1542** took home the *Italian Sparkling Trophy* and *Prosecco Trophy* for its '*highly aromatic*' and '*bright*' Crede Brut, Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore 2024.

## SOUTH AFRICA

### Cabernet Sauvignon from South Africa shines

Winning 23 Gold medals, up from 15 last year, South Africa, coming in seventh place, impressed the judges with a spread of red and white wines including Chardonnay, Semillon, Syrah, and Pinotage. The country was awarded the prestigious *International Cabernet Sauvignon Trophy*, claiming the award from Australia, alongside 111 Silvers, and 91 Bronzes.

Hailed for its '*tight, restrained*' flavours and '*lightly spiced finish*', Stellenbosch producer **La Grand Domaine** impressed judges with its Grand Vin Selection Cabernet Sauvignon 2022, taking home two trophies including the renowned *International Cabernet Sauvignon Trophy* and marking the first time in five years that South Africa won an international trophy.

#### South Africa further highlights:

- **Boschendal Wines** earned the *South African Sparkling Trophy* for its '*complex, layered*' Jean Le Long Prestige Cuvee 2012.
- The STELLA 2022 from **Beau Constantia**, described as '*incredibly appetising*', took home the *South African Red Trophy* and *South African Syrah Trophy*.
- **Vergelegen Estate** was awarded the South African White Trophy for its '*aromatic*' and '*elegant*' Vergelegen Estate White 2023.

## ARGENTINA

### Argentina still the powerhouse of Malbec

Coming in eighth with 144 medals, Argentina reaffirmed its position as the world leader for Malbec, remaining the only country to have been awarded the *International Malbec Trophy*. The impressive

accolade went to **Bodega Fabre** for its Phebus Gran Reserva Malbec 2023, which wowed judges with its 'silky texture', 'structure', and 'long finish'.

#### Argentina further highlights:

- **Huentala Wines'** La Isabel Estate Cofermented Blend 2023 picked up the *Argentinian Red Trophy*, being praised by judges as a 'seamless' marriage of Malbec and Cabernet Franc.

## ENGLAND

### England sets new benchmark for sparkling wine

England continued its impressive rise on the global wine stage, coming in at ninth place and setting a new benchmark for itself in 2025. With 15 Gold medals, up from 13 last year, alongside 59 Silvers and 43 Bronzes, the country's reputation for quality and consistency is gaining serious momentum. From sparkling standouts to confident still wines, England is proving it's no longer a newcomer, it's a contender.

West Sussex winery **Nyetimber** secured a coveted spot in the top 12 with its Blanc de Blancs Magnum 2016, which was crowned **Champion Sparkling Wine (Daniel Thibault Trophy)**, marking the first time the award has gone to a wine outside of Champagne. The achievement builds on the wine's glittering record in this year's challenge, having already earned a Gold medal as well as both the *English Sparkling Trophy* and the *English Blanc de Blancs Trophy*. Judges praised the bubbly as 'a time capsule of a wine'.

Nyetimber's Head Winemaker, **Cherie Spriggs**, was also named **Sparkling Winemaker of the Year**, becoming the only person outside of France to have won it twice.

#### England further highlights

- **Lyme Bay** took home the *English Red Trophy* for its 'beautiful' and 'complex' Pinot Noir 2021, as well as the *English White Trophy* for its Martin's Lane Chardonnay 2020, the first time that the same producer has won both the red and the white trophy. After blind-tasting the Chardonnay, the judges at the IWC exclaimed: 'Burgundy, eat your heart out!'

**Co-Chair Oz Clarke** said: 'I was thrilled and proud when faced with the spectacular quality of the English wines. If English wines want to prove themselves against the best in the world, the International Wine Challenge is the place to do it.'

## AUSTRIA

### Austria impresses with Riesling

Austria came in at 14<sup>th</sup> this year with 55 medals, including eight Golds, but it was a Riesling which received the top recognition. Three trophies, including the *International Riesling Trophy*, went to **Weingut Birgit Eichinger's** Riesling Ried Heiligenstein 1öTw Kamptal Dac 2023, which judges commended as a 'fabulous example of Austrian Riesling'.

#### Austria further highlights

- **Weingut Tschida Angerhof** claimed the *Austrian Sweet Trophy* for its 'remarkable' Sämbling 88 Beerenauslese 2021.

## International Wine Challenge 2025: global wines judged best in show

France	Clos de la Roche Grand Cru Hospices de Beaune Cuvée Cyrot Chaudron 2023, Maison Albert Bichot	<b>IWC Champion Red Wine 2025</b> , 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 Edición Limitada En Rama NV, Emilio Lustau	<b>IWC Champion Fortified Wine 2025 - Manuel Lozano Trophy</b> , 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
Australia	Chardonnay 2023, Tolpuddle Vineyard	<b>Champion White Wine</b> , 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
Italy	Vinsanto Capezzana Riserva 2017, Tenuta Di Capezzana	<b>IWC Champion Sweet Wine 2025 - Alois Kracher Trophy</b> , 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
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
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

	Vergelegen Estate 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	<b>IWC Champion Sparkling Wine 2025 - Daniel Thibault Trophy</b> , 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. Achieving a Trophy is an extraordinary honour and the wines featured here 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 9<sup>th</sup> September can be viewed [here](#).

**ENDS**

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#### **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

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, please contact the IWC team at Phipps

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