IWC Americas 2027 results press release

Argentina leads the medal table as IWC Americas brings the International Wine Challenge to Mendoza

468 awards to 129 producers from Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Brazil and the USA, with 51 Golds heading to London for the Trophy round in May 2027



The IWC Americas 2027 judging panel in Mendoza, Argentina

Mendoza and London, November 2026 – The International Wine Challenge (IWC) has announced the results of IWC Americas, its first competition judged outside of London. Argentina's producers answered by entering their best wines in greater numbers than ever before, and the country leads the medal table with 46 of the 51 Golds and 194 of the 239 Silvers awarded across the Americas.

Wines were judged blind in Mendoza by an international panel, including leading buyers from across North and South America, to exactly the same standard as the International Wine Challenge in London. Every Gold now goes forward to the Trophy round in London next May. There, these wines will be retasted and compete for the top accolades of 2027 against the best from around the world, including Golds from the IWC tranches still to come in Asia-Pacific, Europe and London.

Chris Ashton, IWC Events Managing Director, said: "When we brought IWC to Argentina, Argentina brought us its finest wines. Some of these producers had never entered IWC before, and the results show what the international market has been missing. Taking our judging closer to producers is exactly what IWC 2027 is about,

and Mendoza proved that point. We are hugely grateful to our sponsors: to Wines of Argentina and ProMendoza, whose support helped bring the competition to Mendoza, and to RCR Crystal Glassware, whose glasses our judges used throughout the event."

Argentina: the country's most prized region shines

Argentina's 46 Golds and 194 Silvers went to 96 producers, from small family estates to established names such as Catena Zapata, Zuccardi, Trapiche, Rutini and Luigi Bosca. Golds also went to Familia Millán, La Madrugada, Luca, Alpasion and Finca La Celia, among others, showing how judging locally has opened the door to wineries entering IWC for the first time.

The Golds captured the country's most celebrated wine-growing areas. The Uco Valley accounts for 38 of Argentina’s 46 Golds, led by its renowned sub-regions of Gualtallary and Los Chacayes. Gualtallary was the standout: 14 of its 30 medal winners reached Gold, more golds than any other sub-region came close to.

Malbec led with 29 Golds, but 17 Golds came from other grapes, including 7 for Chardonnay and 4 for Cabernet Franc. Alta-Yarí's Naranjo Torrontés, a skin-contact orange wine from Gualtallary, won Gold, as did Karim Mussi's Paradoux Blanc de Blancs, a Sémillon Sauvignon blend.

Beyond Mendoza, Patagonia won 4 Golds, including 2 Chardonnays from Mabellini in Neuquén and Schroeder's Saurus Pinot Noir. In Salta, El Esteco took all 3 of the province's Golds with high-altitude Malbec from Cafayate and the Calchaquí Valley. Less familiar grapes also impressed, with Silvers for Criolla, Bonarda, Petit Verdot, Sémillon and Tocai Friulano, the latter for Gran Lurton Corte Friulano at 94 points.

The most awarded producers were Bodega Andeluna (12 medals, 2 Golds), Viña Cobos and Antigal (12 medals each) and La Coste de Los Andes (11 medals, 2 Golds). El Esteco and Finca La Celia each won 3 Golds. Bodega Argento won 4 Silvers for its Organic Fairtrade range, led by its Estate Collection Malbec at 94 points, and La Riojana's Fairtrade co-operative wines from La Rioja also medalled.

Matías Prezioso, IWC Americas Co-Chair for Argentina, said: "Being IWC’s Co-Chair for Argentina has been a great honour and responsibility. IWC's decision to expand internationally, with Mendoza as the first venue for IWC Americas, brought a prestigious international wine competition to Argentina for the first time in years. Wineries from across the country had their wines tasted by top local and international judges, and they rose to the occasion. These award-winning labels now have the chance to gain greater visibility in the trade and among consumers, not only in the UK but throughout the Americas."

Uruguay, Chile and Brazil

Uruguay achieved the best strike rate of the competition. All 11 of its medal winners took Silver or better, and 3 won Gold, the highest Gold share of any country at 27%. The Golds went to 2 Tannats, Bodega Garzón Petit Clos and Los Cerros de San

Juan Maderos, and to a Riesling from Becasina in Rocha on the Atlantic coast. Albariño added 3 Silvers.

Chile showed its depth in Carmenère, with a run of Silvers for Montes, Odfjell, Teroa, Hacienda Araucano and Valdivieso. Valdivieso won Chile's Gold with its Caballo Loco Grand Cru Limarí Syrah, and 18 of Chile's 31 medals were Silver or better.

Brazil is one to watch. 12 producers won 41 medals, including 14 Silvers, across 10 regions, from sparkling wines in Serra Gaúcha to the tropical vineyards of Bahia and Pernambuco.

Patricio Tapia, IWC Americas Co-Chair for Chile, Brazil and Uruguay, said: "South America's story is far richer than one grape or one country, and these results prove it. Uruguay had the highest Gold rate in the competition, and its Tannats and a Riesling from the Atlantic coast deserve a much bigger international audience. Chile's Carmenère showed real depth, and Brazil was the surprise of the week, with medals across ten regions from Serra Gaúcha to the tropical north-east. Judging these wines side by side with Argentina's best gave us a clear picture of how much quality and diversity the continent now offers."

USA

White Rose Estate's Object of Beauty 2023, a Pinot Noir from Oregon's Willamette Valley, won Gold, and Chandon California took four Silvers for its sparkling range.

Christy Canterbury MW, IWC Americas Co-Chair for North America, said: "After more than a decade as an International Wine Challenge Panel Chair, I was honored to serve as North America Co-Chair for the first IWC Americas. I strongly believe in the integrity of the meticulous, tiered, blind-tasting process at the heart of IWC's commitment to finding the best quality wines, and every wine here was judged that way. Judging in Mendoza did just what we hoped. We saw wines from producers who had never entered before, we could focus more closely on what makes each region distinctive, and we found some real hidden gems. It gave us a much broader view of winemaking across the Americas."

Icon awards

In the separately judged Icon awards, Argentina won 10 of the 14, Chile 3 and Brazil 1, a clear sign that producers entered their premium wines. The top score of 96 points went to Andeluna de La Parcela Cabernet Franc 2024 and Aluvia Vineyard El Calcáreo Chardonnay 2024 from Argentina, and to Montes Purple Angel 2022 from Chile. Brazil's Casa Tés Grama Branco 2025, a Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon blend from Serra da Mantiqueira, scored 95.

IWC Americas is part of IWC 2027's new regional format, which lets producers everywhere enter close to home, with tranches in the Americas, Asia-Pacific, Europe and the UK. The full IWC Americas results are available online.

ENDS

Notes to editors

IWC Americas medal table

Medal	Argentina	Chile	Uruguay	Brazil	USA	Total
Gold (95+ pts)	46	1	3	0	1	51
Silver (90–94 pts)	194	17	8	14	6	239
Bronze	108	11	0	21	6	146
Commended	22	2	0	6	2	32
Total awards	**370**	**31**	**11**	**41**	**15**	**468**
Producers awarded	96	12	5	12	4	129

Icon awards are judged separately and are not included in the table.

How IWC judged

- Every wine is tasted blind. Bottles are bagged, and any bottle whose shape or branding shows through is decanted into a plain bottle.
- Panels mix international IWC judges with leading buyers from across the Americas. Each panel included judges from several countries, so no single nationality dominated. Three in five judges were women.
- Every flight is retasted by the co-chairs, and changing a panel's score needs a second co-chair to agree.
- A regional Gold is the same medal as any other IWC Gold: same judging process, same scoring.
- All Gold medal winners are retasted in London for the Trophy round in May 2027.

IWC Americas co-chairs

- Christy Canterbury MW, North America
- Matías Prezioso, Argentina
- Patricio Tapia, Chile, Brazil and Uruguay

Sponsors

IWC Americas was supported by Wines of Argentina and ProMendoza. Judges' glassware was supplied by RCR Crystal Glassware.

International Wine Challenge 2027 Judging Schedule

IWC 2027 is one competition judged in four regional tranches:

Americas	Mendoza, November 2026
Asia Pacific	Australia, December 2026
Europe	Montpellier, April 2027
UK	London, May 2027

About the International Wine Challenge

Enter locally. Compete globally.

Founded in London in 1984, the International Wine Challenge (IWC) is one of the world's most respected wine competitions. Each year it judges thousands of wines and sakes through a rigorous, multi-stage blind tasting process. Panels of expert judges, including Masters of Wine, winemakers and leading buyers, taste every wine blind, and the competition's co-chairs cross-check every result.

From 2027, the IWC is judged in four regional heats; the Americas, Asia-Pacific, Europe and the UK. This brings judging closer to the vineyards while keeping a single international standard. Gold medal winners from every region go forward to London to compete for the IWC's 2027 Trophies.

Find out more at internationalwinechallenge.com.

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