



PHIPPS

Portugal ranks third internationally for Gold-medal-winning wines at the International Wine Challenge

Over 20% more medal-winning wines than last year for Portugal

Portugal's winemakers picked up 181 medals in the latest round of the International Wine Challenge (IWC), the world's most influential wine competition. This figure is an increase of over 20% on last year's performance, where Portugal were awarded 150 medals.

Ten of this year's wins were Gold medals, putting Portugal in third place behind France and Australia in the medal table. Of the Gold medals, seven were awarded to Ports. They covered a wide range of vintages – from 1985 to 2014 – as well as non-vintage.

The Ports that particularly impressed the judges were:

- Quinta do Beijo's Very Old 40 YO Tawny
- Bulas Family Estates' Porto Colheita
- Symington Family Estates' The Society's Exhibition Vintage Port
- Waitrose & Partners' Kopke Colheita Tawny Port
- Barao De Vilar Vinhos' Maynard's LBV Port
- Barao De Vilar Vinhos' Maynard's 30 Year Old Tawny Port
- Taylor's Marks and Spencer Vintage Port 2007

Two red blends from the Alentejo region also took Golds. These were Sociedade Agricola D. Diniz's *Coutada Velha Signature* and Luis Duarte Vinhos' *Rapariga da Quinta*.

A white wine from the Vinho Verde region – the *Valados de Melgaço Alvarinho Reserva* – was also awarded a Gold medal.

Twelve wines from the Duoro were awarded Silver medals, as were three from Dão, prompting Charles Metcalfe, IWC co-chair, to name "the lovely reds from Dão, as well as from the Douro" as one of his personal highlights from the competition.

Highlighting the weight that these medals carry, Dr Jamie Goode, another co-chair, said: "I think that if a wine achieves a medal in the IWC then it's a safe bet for a good bottle this Christmas. It takes a lot to get a Silver, and the Golds are rare!"

Charles Metcalfe added: "We don't just hand out medals to our favourite winemakers! Every medal has been awarded after a blind tasting by experts from all over the world."

The first part of the 2019 International Wine Challenge – Tranche 1 – saw 212 wine experts from 23 countries judging the wines over four days in London. Tranche 2 judging will take place from April 1-11, 2019, with the results announced on May 8.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The International Wine Challenge

In its 36th year, the International Wine Challenge is accepted as the world's finest and most meticulously judged competition. The IWC assesses every wine 'blind' and judges each for its faithfulness to style, region and vintage. Each medal-winning wine is tasted on at least three separate occasions by a minimum of 12 different judges including Masters of Wine. Awards include medals (Gold, Silver, Bronze)

and Commended awards. The IWC 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 IWC, please contact the IWC team at Phipps
iwc@thisishipps.com : +44 (0) 20 7759 7400 : 17 Exeter Street, London, WC2E 7DU, UK