

HOW THE TASTINGS WORK

The IWC offers two entry dates – Tranche 1 in November and Tranche 2 in April. But the process for selecting the medal-winning wines is the same, with each Tranche split into Round 1 and Round 2.

“I believe that blind tasting is the only honest way to assess wines. Any experienced taster has biases for or against wines or producers, unconscious or not. Blind tasting removes those biases.”

Charles Metcalfe, Co-Chair



FLIGHTING



The wines are put in new 'tasting flights' or group of wines with a similar style and from the same country or region.

All flights are then tagged with their unique identifier and put into new blind tasting bags.

TEMPERATURE CONTROLLED STORING



All wines awarded a Gold medal or fall into the Great Value category are transported to a temperature controlled storage facility, where they will be kept until the Trophy Tasting.

RECYCLING



At the end of each day's judging, bottles, leftover wine, packaging and corks all get recycled.

In 2017 the IWC recycled 10.5 cubic metres of wine and 231 cubic metres of polystyrene was transformed into insulation for houses.



TASTING – ROUND 1

In round one, wines are either marked as 'out', given a Commended award or progress to the next round as a medal hopeful.

The Co-Chairs re-taste all 'outs' and Commended wines to confirm the mark. If there is a disagreement in the result, a wine may be reentered into round two to give it another chance.

TASTING – ROUND 2

Round two of the judging begins a few days after round one.

This time wines are marked as 'out', given a Commended award, or awarded Gold, Silver or Bronze medals. At this stage, points are also awarded.

All wines are re-tasted by the IWC Co-Chairs to verify the results.

MEDALS ANNOUNCEMENT

Wines that have won Gold, Silver or Bronze or received a Commended award can immediately promote their success. There is no news embargo and the results will be broadcast through international press releases and across all IWC platforms, including websites and social media.

IWC medal stickers can be purchased from the IWC shop or the electronic files downloaded for free.

TASTING – TROPHY ROUND

Wines awarded Gold medals in Tranche 1 and Tranche 2 progress to the Trophy round which takes place a few days after round 2 of Tranche 2.

All Gold-medal-winning wines are tasted, as are all Gold-medal-winning wines that fall into the Great Value category. Regional and national Trophies and Great Value medals are awarded.

TASTING – CHAMPION TROPHIES ROUND

All Trophy-winning wines are re-tasted by the IWC Co-Chairs who then decide which wines should receive the highest IWC award, the Champion Trophies:

**Champion Red Wine,
Champion White Wine,
Champion Sparkling,
Champion Fortified Wine,
Champion Sweet Wine,
Champion of Champions.**

TROPHIES ANNOUNCEMENT

Wines that have won a Trophy award can immediately promote their success.

All Champion Trophy-winning wines will be announced at the annual IWC Awards Dinner:

**Great Value Champion Awards
Own Label Range Award
Planet Earth Awards
Champion Wine Awards
Champion of Champions
Winemaker of the Year Awards
IWC Special Awards**