



PHIPPS

Success for the South West at the IWC Merchant Awards UK

At this year's International Wine Challenge (IWC) Merchant Awards UK, Wiltshire locals **Yapp Brothers** impressed the judges with their range of wines across two different categories, scooping the awards for both **IWC Specialist Merchant Languedoc Roussillon 2019** and also **IWC Specialist Merchant Rhône 2019**.

Yapp Brothers, founded in 1969 is an established specialist in importing French regional wines, having won both of these titles before. It has a list stuffed with world-famous producers and supplies some of the best restaurants in the UK, alongside private customers from the shop in Mere and the online store.

Le Vignoble, the Plymouth and Bath-based wine lounges, brought home the prize for **IWC Regional Merchant South West for 2019**. Le Vignoble was awarded the prize in recognition of its efforts to become 'the ultimate wine heaven' – offering customers a one-stop shop for wine education, a wine lounge and a wine shop at both their Milsom Street (Bath) and Royal William Yard (Plymouth) addresses.

In its 36th year, the International Wine Challenge is accepted as the world's most rigorous, impartial and influential wine competition. The International Wine Challenge Merchant Awards UK celebrate the most successful small and large businesses, who deliver an outstanding service to wine consumers. The awards are based on top quality wines, but, most importantly, in this sector of the awards, of a commercially successful, viable, and proven business model. This year's winners were announced on 9th July and the full list of those awarded can be seen [here](#), and the [Merchant Awards results here](#).

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The International Wine Challenge

In its 36th year, the International Wine Challenge is accepted as the world's most rigorous, impartial and influential wine 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 Merchant Awards UK

The Merchant Awards were introduced to the IWC in 1990. A distinguished panel of judges examines each entry and, over the course of two days, decides on the winners for each category. The judges focus on the business side of retailing; it's not just about having great wines. This year the judging panel comprised Laura Jewell MW, Helen McGinn, Peter McCombie MW, Tim Atkin MW and Charles Metcalfe. Laure Patry joined the team to assist with the judging of the Restaurant Wine List award.

The IWC is committed to helping consumers discover great wine, and the medals displayed on winning bottles and in winning shops offer a trusted guarantee of quality.

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