



PHIPPS

Sussex sparkles in International Wine Challenge

Cementing their place among the world's elite, England's winemakers were awarded 11 Gold, 50 Silver and 60 Bronze medals in the International Wine Challenge, the world's most rigorously judged wine competition.

England came ninth in the medals table, amongst some of the most celebrated fine-wine producing nations such as France, Australia and Italy, proving that what it lacks in quantity it more than makes up for in quality.

Ten of England's 11 Gold medals have gone to producers of sparkling wines, establishing England as a producer of some of the best sparkling wines in the world.

Sussex leads the way

Sussex led the way with a total of seven of the 11 Golds. Out of the Sussex-based producers, Nyetimber whose winery is based in Pulborough came out on top with three Gold medals, two Silvers and a Bronze, with Golds going to its **Blanc de Blancs 2010**, **Classic Cuvee Multi-Vintage** and **Classic Cuvee 2009**. Nyetimber's **Classic Cuvee 2009** also received the highest accolade for sparkling wine in the UK, the English Sparkling Trophy. Having been awarded this trophy for the very same wine in 2014, the Classic Cuvee 2009 has continued to impress the Panel and Co-Chairs with its depth and complexity.

Last year Nyetimber winemaker, Canadian-born Cherie Spriggs, was crowned IWC Sparkling Winemaker of the Year 2018 – the first time a woman and someone outside of Champagne had won the title.

Digby, Fox & Fox, Ridgeview and Sugrue Pierre also bagged Golds in the competition, which involves 400 judges from 38 countries and two weeks of blind-tasting.

Along with the most Gold medals, Sussex-based producers also had two of the three top-scoring wines with both **Nyetimber Classic Cuvee 2009** and **Ridgeview Blanc de Blancs 2014** scoring 96/100. The Ridgeview wine went on to win the English Blanc de Blancs Trophy.

The only other wine to score 96/100 – and the only English still wine to gain a Gold – was **Chapel Down's Kit's Coty Chardonnay 2016** from Kent. This wine was also awarded the English White Trophy.

The English Sparkling Rose Trophy goes to Surrey producer **Greyfriars Vineyard's Sparkling Rose Reserve 2014**.

Chris Ashton, event director at the International Wine Challenge, commented:

"2018 was a glorious year for English wine in terms of both quality and quantity, and we've seen a hint of what's to come with the still whites. The wide range of medal-winning producers, counties and vintages – from 2009 to 2018 – shows that English wine now has strength in depth."

Oz Clarke, Co-chair at the International Wine Challenge, puts England's success down to "a combination of climate change, increased knowledge and more investment".

The English Gold medal winning wines:

East Sussex

- Fox & Fox Tradition Blanc de Noirs 2014 95/100
 - o Available through Amathus
- Ridgeview Blanc de Blancs 2014 96/100
 - o Available through The Wine Society

West Sussex

- Nyetimber Blanc de Blancs 2010 95/100
 - o Available through The Finest Bubble, The Wine Society, Bon Coeur Fine Wines, Lea & Sandeman
- Nyetimber Classic Cuvee 2009 96/100
 - o Laithwaites, Roberson Wines
- Nyetimber Classic Cuvee Multi-Vintage 95/100
 - o Laithwaites, Waitrose, Majestic
 - o Digby Fine English Leander Pink Non Vintage Brut 95/100
 - o Marks & Spencer, The Whisky Exchange, Harvey Nichols
 - o Sugrue Pierre The Trouble With Dreams 2014 95/100
 - o Hennings Wine, Corking wines, Novel Wines, Butler's Wine Cellar

Hampshire

- Raimes Classic Brut 2014 95/100
 - o Fareham Cellars, Concept Fine Wine

Kent

- Chapel Down Kit's Coty Coeur De Cuvée 2014 95/100
 - o The Whisky Exchange
- Chapel Down Kit's Coty Chardonnay 2016 96/100
 - o Chapel Down

Surrey

- Greyfriars Vineyard Sparkling Rose Reserve 2014 95/100
 - o Waitrose

NOTES TO EDITORS:

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The International Wine Challenge

In its 36th year, the International Wine Challenge (IWC) 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 and full results, please contact the IWC team at Phipps iwc@thisisphipps.com : +44 (0) 20 7759 7400 : 17 Exeter Street, London, WC2E 7DU, UK

