



PHIPPS

## Trophy winners and shortlist for the Winemaker of the Year 2019 revealed by International Wine Challenge

The International Wine Challenge (IWC) released today the names of its 2019 Trophy winners. Chosen from Gold medal-winning wines that have undergone further rigorous blind tasting by a panel of international wine experts, the Trophy winners are the best of the best of the world's most influential wine competition.

### *Four years in a row: Syrah Trophy win for New Zealand*

New Zealand has been awarded the International Syrah Trophy for the fourth year in a row by the IWC. The best Syrah has been named as **Te Awanga Estate's Trademark Syrah 2015**, which won the Hawke's Bay Syrah Trophy and International Syrah Trophy. As well as an internationally unrivalled Syrah, the Te Awanga Estate wine was also awarded the New Zealand Red Trophy, fighting off stiff competition from New Zealand's world-famous Pinot Noirs.

Peter McCombie MW, Co-Chair of the IWC, said:

"There isn't much Syrah planted in New Zealand but what there is makes world-class wine. Stylistically closer to Rhone Valley than Barossa Valley, we expect New Zealand Syrah to have abundant fruit and remarkable freshness. Te Awanga, winner of the New Zealand Red Trophy, is a brilliant example of this style."

Less surprising perhaps is the news that New Zealand also produces a world-beating Sauvignon Blanc. **Saint Clair Family Estate's Wairau Reserve Sauvignon Blanc 2018** took the New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc Trophy and International Sauvignon Blanc Trophy.

### *Own label supermarket wines amongst the best in the world*

Any doubt over the quality of supermarket own-label wine can be cast aside after the results of the IWC 2019. Two supermarket own-label wines were awarded Trophies this year. **Waitrose Côtes de Provence Rosé 2018** won the Provence Rosé Trophy and **Tesco** took home the Amarone Trophy for its **Cantina Valpantena's Tesco Finest Amarone 2015**.

In total, an impressive 11 Gold medals went to supermarket own-label wines, demonstrating the exceptional quality of supermarket buying teams.

Charles Metcalfe, Co-Chair of the IWC, commented:

"Most UK wine-drinkers buy their wine from supermarkets, and, with the results we've uncovered in this year's International Wine Challenge, it's quite obvious why."

The IWC Own Label of the Year Shortlist 2019 includes Aldi, Berry Brothers & Rudd, Marks & Spencer and Tesco. The winner will be announced at the IWC 2019 Awards Dinner on 9 July 2019 at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London.

### *Italy crowned Rosé champion*

Provence may be the most famous rosé region in the world, but a Sicilian rosé made from Nerello Mascalese has been awarded the International Rosé Trophy. Torre Mora's Scalunera Etna Rosato 2018 scored 96 points on its way to receiving both the Sicilian Rosé Trophy and the International Rosé Trophy.

### *Burgundy burns bright*

The IWC Trophy results also confirm a few things long recognised by wine experts:

The competition's top Chardonnay is from France's Chablis region; **Domaine Christian Moreau's Chablis Grand Cru les Clos 2017** won four Trophies - Chablis Grand Cru Trophy, White Burgundy Trophy, French White Trophy, and International Chardonnay Trophy.

France's Burgundy region also produced the top Pinot Noir in the competition, **Château de Santenay's Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru 2017** which won the Clos du Vougeot Trophy, Red Burgundy Trophy and International Pinot Noir Trophy.

### *First red success for China*

To celebrate the increase in quality from China, the IWC judging panel awarded a Chinese Red Trophy for the first time this year, with the top gong going to **China Great Wall's Five Star Cabernet Sauvignon 2016**.

For a full list of Trophy winners, please click [here](#).

### *Winemakers of the Year 2019*

The IWC also announced today the shortlist for its **Winemakers of the Year 2019**. In each category, the 2018 Winemakers of the Year are putting up a strong fight to retain their titles (namely Hervé J. Fabre, Didier Séguier, Sergio Martínez, Cherie Spriggs, and Helmut Lang).

The winner will be announced at the IWC 2019 Awards Dinner on 9 July 2019 at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London.

This exclusive event will also reveal the winners of the Merchant of the Year, Champion Trophy and Winemaker of the Year awards.

#### **Shortlisted IWC Red Winemaker of the Year 2019**

- Bodegas Fabre - Hervé J. Fabre
- Bird in Hand – Dylan Lee
- Edouard Delaunay - Christophe Briotet
- Wolf Blass - Chris Hatcher & Steven Frost

#### **Shortlisted IWC White Winemaker of the Year 2019**

- La Chablisienne - Vincent Bartement
- McGuigan - Neil McGuigan
- William Fevre - Didier Séguier

#### **Shortlisted IWC Fortified Winemaker of the Year 2019**

- Emilio Lustau - Sergio Martínez
- Morris Wines - David Morris
- González Byass - Antonio Flores

### Shortlisted IWC Sparkling Winemaker of the Year 2019

- Nyetimber - Cherie Spriggs
- Charles Heidsieck - Cyril Brun
- Domaine Chandon California - Pauline Lhote
- Champagne Rare - Régis Camus

### Shortlisted IWC Sweet Winemaker of the Year 2019

- Weingut Helmut Lang - Helmut Lang
- Hans Tschida - Hans Tschida
- Weingut Horst Sauer - Horst & Sandra Sauer

### IWC Own Label of the Year Shortlist 2019

- Aldi
- Berry Brothers & Rudd
- Marks & Spencer
- Tesco

### NOTES TO EDITORS:

For full results and further information, please contact [beth.terry@thisisphipps.com](mailto:beth.terry@thisisphipps.com)

### The International Wine Challenge

In its 36<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:iwc@thisisphipps.com) : +44 (0) 20 7759 7400 : 17 Exeter Street, London, WC2E 7DU, UK