



26 November 2020

International Wine Challenge 2020

Great Britain takes its place on the world wine stage winning more gold medals than any other country for its size

The International Wine Challenge, the world’s most influential and rigorously judged wine competition, has announced its results, revealing a record-breaking year for English wineries making Great Britain the most awarded wine producer in the world for its size.

A total of 14 English wines won Gold medals in the International Wine Challenge 2020. The list included sparkling, white and even a red wine (full list below). This success meant that Great Britain was ranked in 8th position worldwide out of 55 countries that entered wines, beating heavyweights of the wine aisles Argentina and Chile (who placed 10th and 11th respectively). When looked at from a global perspective, and factoring in the tiny amount of wine produced in Great Britain, compared with giants such as France, Spain and the US, Great Britain comes top by some margin:

Country	Gold Medals	Wine produced in hectolitres in 2018	Gold Medals per million hl of wine produced
France	134	48,600,000	2.75
Australia	76	12,900,000	5.89
Spain	53	44,400,000	1.19
Portugal	36	6,100,000	5.9
New Zealand	35	3,000,000	11.66
Italy	24	54,800,000	0.43
South Africa	18	9,500,000	1.89
Great Britain	14	98,900	141.41
Austria	12	2,800,000	4.28
Argentina	9	14,500,000	0.62

Statistics from OIV 2019 Statistical Report on World Vitiviniculture and WineGB

Oz Clarke, one of the six co-chairs for the International Wine Challenge and author of English Wine commented: *‘It’s incredible to think that Great Britain is producing so many world class wines from such a small production. What became clear during the judging process was that the quality of wines from Great Britain is increasing every year and the style of wines that we are now producing is more diverse than ever.’*

One of Great Britain’s gold medals was awarded to a red wine for the first time, ‘The Red Miller’, a wine made from Pinot Meunier by Kent-based producer Hush Heath. Winning gold led to the wine also being awarded the first English Red Trophy and the James Rogers Trophy, for the best wine in its first year of production in this year’s competition.

English sparkling wines were awarded 11 of Britain’s Gold medals, cementing England’s status as one of the world’s best sparkling wine producers, winning 21% of all the gold medals awarded to sparkling wines in the competition.

Supermarket value champions and own label range of the year crowned

Selected from the competition's Great Value Trophy winners, the International Wine Challenge has awarded five world-class, budget-friendly wines as its Great Value champions, and they're all available in M&S and Tesco.

M&S won the prize for its sparkling and red wines and Tesco brought home the trophy for its sweet, white and fortified wines. With all of the wines available for £12 or under it's not just the supermarkets that will be celebrating.

Great Value Champion Sparkling 2020



M&S Classics
Crémant de
Bourgogne Brut,
NV - £10

Great Value Champion White 2020



Tesco Finest
Albariño, 2019 -
£8.50

Great Value Champion Red 2020



El Duque de
Miralta Rioja
Reserva, 2015 –
M&S - £12

Great Value Champion Sweet 2020



Tesco Finest
Sémillon Dessert,
2017 - £6

Great Value Champion Fortified 2020



Tesco Finest Cream
Sherry, NV - £6

See below for the full list of great value supermarket wines.

The top three supermarkets of the competition were M&S, Waitrose and Tesco, bringing in a total of 14 gold medals for their wines. Two supermarket wines also received trophies with M&S' **El Duque de Miralta Rioja Reserva** (also a value champion) winning the trophies for best Rioja Reserva and best Rioja overall in the whole competition. The English Sparkling Rosé trophy was awarded to Waitrose's **Hattingley Valley Rosé**.

Berry Brothers & Rudd was awarded IWC Own Label Range of the Year 2020, fighting off stiff competition from Tesco, M&S and Asda.

Helen McGinn, International Wine Challenge co-chair, commented: *'UK supermarkets offer a real treasure-trove of delicious wines and we urge anyone looking for some great wines for Christmas to take note of our 2020 winners before they sell out! We hope wine-lovers everywhere will enjoy them as much as we did.'*

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The International Wine Challenge

In its 37th year, the International Wine Challenge is accepted as the world's most meticulously-judged competition. The International Wine Challenge assesses every wine 'blind' and judges each for its faithfulness to style, region and vintage.

Awards include medals (Gold, Silver, Bronze) and Commended awards. Trophies are awarded to the very best wines in each category after further rigorous blind tasting by a panel of experts. The International Wine Challenge is committed to helping consumers discover great wine, and the medals displayed on winning bottles offer a trusted guarantee of quality.

The full list of award winners in the 2020 International Wine Challenge released on 26th November can be seen [here](#).

The English Gold Winners

Balfour Hush Heath, The Red Miller, 2018
Chapel Down, Kit's Coty Chardonnay, 2017
Gusbourne, Brut Reserve, 2016
Hambledon, Berry Bros. & Rudd English Sparkling Blanc de Blancs, 2015
Harrow & Hope, Blanc de Noirs, 2015
Harrow & Hope, Brut Reserve, NV
Hattingley Valley Rosé, 2015
Hencote, Pinot Noir, 2018
Henners, Henners Brut, NV
Nyetimber, Classic Cuvee, 2010
Nyetimber, Tillington Single Vineyard, 2013
Oxney Organic Estate, Classic, 2016
Simpsons Wine Estate, Flint Fields Blanc de Noirs, 2016
The Squerryes Partnership, Squerryes Brut, 2016

Great Value Winners

Asda Extra Special Barbera d'Asti, 2018	£6.00	IWC Great Value Red under £8
Asda Extra Special Chablis, 2019	£12.50	IWC Great Value White Under £15
Asda Extra Special Vintage Champagne Louis Bernard, 2008	£26.00	IWC Great Value Sparkling £26 and under
Tesco Finest Semillon Dessert, 2017	£6.00	IWC Great Value Sweet under £8, IWC Great Value Champion Sweet 2020
Morrisons The Best Botrytis Semillon, 2017	£7.25	IWC Great Value Sweet under £8
Tesco Finest Sancerre, 2019	£14.00	IWC Great Value White Under £15
Tesco Finest Albariño, 2019	£8.50	IWC Great Value White between £8 and £12, IWC Great Value Champion White 2020
Tesco Finest Cream Sherry, NV	£6.00	IWC Great Value Fortified under £8, IWC Great Value Champion Fortified 2020
Tesco Finest Sauternes, 2015	£12.00	IWC Great Value Sweet between £8 and £12
Tesco Finest Viña del Cura Rioja Gran Reserva, 2013	£11.50	IWC Great Value Red between £8 and £12
El Duque de Miralta Rioja Reserva, 2015	£12.00	IWC Great Value Red between £8 and £12 IWC Great Value Champion Red 2020
Morrisons The Best Prosecco, NV	£8.00	IWC Great Value Sparkling under £12
Morrisons The Best Oloroso, NV - £6.25	£6.25	IWC Great Value Fortified under £8
Marks and Spencer Classics Crémant De Bourgogne Brut, NV	£10.00	IWC Great Value Sparkling between £12 and £20, IWC Great Value Champion Sparkling 2020

The full list of great value winners in the 2020 International Wine Challenge can be seen [here](#).

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