



International Wine Challenge reveals outstanding quality of supermarket wines while UK wine industry wins top medals for its red, white and sparkling wines

With temperatures rising and summer on the horizon, the nation’s thoughts turn to al fresco dining and sharing a bottle of wine with friends. But it can be a daunting task selecting the perfect bottle to toast the summer’s hottest occasions. Luckily, the International Wine Challenge, the world’s most influential, impartial and rigorously judged wine competition, has just announced the winners of this year’s challenge, many of which are available to buy from supermarkets or independent wine merchants across the nation.

Thousands of wines from over 50 countries entered the challenge and were judged by an international panel of wine experts in a series of blind tastings held in London last month. Only the very best wines were rewarded with a medal so consumers can add these to their shopping list and know that they are guaranteed an incredible wine choice.

Outstanding value from supermarkets’ own brands

The quality of wine available in UK supermarket aisles shone through in this year’s International Wine Challenge, particularly in the Great Value Awards with seven supermarkets being recognised for the outstanding quality of their wines at affordable prices.

Remarkably, of the eighteen Great Value Award winners fourteen were supermarket own-label wines. Tesco did the best with four own-brand wines receiving Great Value Awards including the **Tesco Finest Tingleup Riesling 2021** for £9.00. Morrisons and Marks & Spencer were close behind with three wines each including the **Morrisons The Best Marqués de los Ríos Rioja Gran Reserva 2012** for £12.00 and Marks & Spencer’s **Graham Beck ‘The Rhona’ Brut Rosé** for £14.00.

‘The International Wine Challenge takes the guesswork out of shopping for wine. Looking out for IWC stickers when choosing wine gives consumers confidence in their choices, knowing that skilled expert palates have highlighted the very best the wine world has to offer’, said Helen McGinn, one of the six Co-Chairs of the International Wine Challenge.

IWC Great Value Award Winners 2022	Wine	Price	Stockist
IWC Great Value White between £8 and £12	Paul Mas Réserve Languedoc Blanc 2021	£9.99	Waitrose
IWC Great Value White between £8 and £12	Co-op Irresistible Gavi di Gavi 2021	£8.50	Co-op
IWC Great Value White between £8 and £12	Tesco Finest Tingleup Riesling 2021	£9.00	Tesco
IWC Great Value Rosé between £8 and £12	Cintu Ile de Beaute Corsican Rosé 2021	£8.00	Marks & Spencer
IWC Great Value Rosé between £8 and £12	Le Bijou de Sophie Valrose Rosé 2021	£10.99	Waitrose
IWC Great Value Rosé Under £16	Domaine Saint Jean De Terra Luberon 2021	£15.99	Naked Wines
IWC Great Value Red under £8	Tesco Finest Montepulciano D'Abruzzo 2019	£7.00	Tesco
IWC Great Value Red between £8 and £12	Asda Extra Special Marques Del Norte Rioja Gran Reserva 2015	£11.50	Asda

IWC Great Value Red Under £15	Morrisons The Best Marqués de los Ríos Rioja Gran Reserva 2012	£12.00	Morrisons
IWC Great Value Sparkling under £25	Tesco Finest Premier Cru Champagne	£21.00	Tesco
IWC Great Value Sparkling between £12 and £20	Morrisons The Best Etienne Leclair Brut Champagne	£20.00	Morrisons
IWC Great Value Sparkling between £12 and £20	Graham Beck 'The Rhona' Brut Rosé	£14.00	Marks & Spencer
IWC Great Value Sweet Under £15	The Ned Noble Sauvignon Blanc 2021	£14.99	Majestic
IWC Great Value Sweet Under £15	l'Or du Ciron Sauternes 2018	£12.50	Marks & Spencer
IWC Great Value Sweet between £8 and £12	Aldi Specially Selected Tokaji Aszu 2017	£10.99	Aldi
IWC Great Value Fortified under £8	Morrisons The Best Oloroso	£6.25	Morrisons
IWC Great Value Fortified between £8 and £12	Waitrose & Partners N°1 Manzanilla Pasada El Benito	£11.99	Waitrose
IWC Great Value Fortified Under £15	Tesco Finest 10 Year Old Tawny Port	£12.00	Tesco

Tesco's own-label wines triumph

In this year's International Wine Challenge, 530 medals were awarded to supermarkets overall, 365 of which were for own-label wines. But once again, Tesco's performance stood out, achieving the highest number of award-winning wines overall with a total of 123 across the Gold, Silver, Bronze and Commended categories. Despite a strong challenge from Asda, which also proved its own label has plenty of award-winning potential, Tesco prevailed in the Gold Medal category, bringing home an impressive four Gold Medals for its own range of wines. Golds also went to Waitrose, Morrisons and Aldi for their own-label offerings; however, it was Marks & Spencer that took third place in the overall own-label medal table.

Of the seven Gold Medals awarded to own-label wines, five went to fortified wines, with sherry proving a particularly successful category for UK supermarkets. Morrisons, Waitrose and Tesco were all recognised for their sherries, with **Morrisons The Best Oloroso**, **Waitrose & Partners N°1 Manzanilla Pasada El Benito** and **Tesco Finest Pedro Ximénez** all receiving Golds. Tesco boasted Gold Medal wins for a further two fortified wines, the **Tesco Vermouth Rosso** and the **Tesco Finest 10 Year Old Tawny Port**.

And yet again, it was Tesco that triumphed for its still wines, taking home the only Gold Medal for an own-label wine with its **Tesco Finest Montepulciano D'Abruzzo 2019** while Aldi took that accolade for an own-label sparkling wine with its **Specially Selected Crémant de Limoux Rose**.

The Spectacular Seven: Own-Label Supermarket Gold Medal Winners



Specially Selected Crémant de Limoux Rose, £6.49 Aldi



Tesco Finest Montepulciano D'Abruzzo 2019, £7.00 Tesco



Morrisons The Best Oloroso, £6.25 Morrisons



Waitrose & Partners N°1 Manzanilla Pasada El Benito, £11.99 Waitrose & Partners



Tesco Finest Pedro Ximénez, £6.00 Tesco



Tesco Vermouth Rosso, £5.75 Tesco



Tesco Finest 10 Year Old Tawny Port, £12.50 Tesco

Own-label supermarket medals

Supermarkets	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Commended	Grand Total
Asda	0	10	33	55	98
Tesco	4	16	34	27	81
Marks & Spencer	0	10	24	27	61
Morrisons	1	8	19	27	55
Waitrose	1	5	8	8	22
Co-op	0	2	6	14	22
SPAR	0	2	3	10	15
Aldi	1	1	6	3	11

English wines go from strength to strength

For the first time ever, two Gold Medals were awarded to England’s still white wines. Both made from 100% Chardonnay grapes, the wines that received this prestigious medal were **Kit's Coty Chardonnay 2019** by Kent-based producer **Chapel Down** and **Artefact #2 Barrel Aged Chardonnay 2020** by Sussex-based producer **Artelium**, which was also awarded the English White Trophy. The only Gold Medal for a still red wine went to **Lyme Bay Winery** for its **Pinot Noir 2020**.

Meanwhile, England cemented its position as one of the world’s best producers of sparkling wines, coming second only to France for Gold Medals, with vineyards in Sussex, Kent and Oxfordshire all earning coveted Golds.

Kent led the medal wins for English wines with 30 medals, two of which were Gold and the county also took home the **Vintage English Sparkling Trophy** for the **Gusbourne Exclusive Release 2018**. Other wins came for Oxfordshire’s **Wyfold Vineyard Rose 2017**, which was the only English sparkling rosé to be crowned Gold as well as Sussex’s **Highweald Brut Reserve**, which received the coveted **English Sparkling Trophy** and the **Non Vintage English Sparkling Trophy** too.

Oz Clarke, International Wine Challenge Co-Chair and author of 'English Wine' commented: '*English sparkling wines have been very highly regarded for some time, but what we see now is that they have paved the way for still wines to excel too.*'

The full list of award winners in the 2022 International Wine Challenge released on 17th May can be seen [here](#). The IWC 2022 Champions, which are selected following a re-tasting of all trophy-winning wines by the IWC Co-Chairs, will be revealed at the IWC 2022 Awards announcement on Thursday 7th July.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

The International Wine Challenge

In its 39th year, the International Wine Challenge is accepted as the world's most rigorous, impartial and influential wine 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. 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.

For more information on the IWC, please contact the IWC team at Phipps
iwc@thisisphipps.com : +44 (0) 20 3968 2455

International Wine Challenge Results 2022: Top 10 Countries ranked by Gold medal wins

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Commended
France	75	367	442	451
Australia	54	246	254	165
Spain	47	212	294	412
Portugal	43	163	203	215
New Zealand	17	77	101	85
Italy	13	144	267	390
South Africa	13	83	113	133
Austria	12	54	45	40
Great Britain	8	44	31	36
Argentina	7	99	129	119

Overall supermarket medals (including own label)

Supermarket	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Commended	Total
Tesco	4	17	46	56	123
Asda	0	10	33	56	99
Waitrose	2	16	37	23	78
Morrisons	1	9	28	34	72
Marks & Spencer	0	11	24	27	62
Aldi	2	14	20	15	51
Co-op	0	4	11	15	30
SPAR	0	2	3	10	15