



PHIPPS



(left) Natalie Christensen, IWC White Winemaker of the Year, (right) Emilien Bouillat, IWC Sparkling Winemaker of the Year

International Wine Challenge 2023 names wines and winemakers of the year

The [International Wine Challenge](#), the world's most influential, impartial, and rigorously judged global wine competition, has announced the highest scoring wines of its 2023 competition along with its five Winemakers of the Year in the categories of red, white, sparkling, sweet and fortified.

Following a series of intensive blind tastings by an international panel of experts, wines from nine countries earned themselves a spot on the coveted list, which is comprised of International Trophy winners (wines named the best example of that variety) as well as the competition's five Champion wines (the ultimate accolade reserved for those wines deemed the absolute finest in their category).

France claims three Champion awards

France was the top performing country in this year's challenge, taking home more medals than any other nation as well as three of the five prestigious Champion awards.

- **Edouard Delaunay's Chambertin Grand Cru Rouge 2020** beat wines from over 50 countries to be named **Champion Red Wine**, adding to the four trophies already under its belt.
- Having made headlines as the first Vin Jaune to win the **French White Trophy, Michel Tissot & Fils' Château-Chalon Vin Jaune 2015** went on to claim **Champion White Wine** too – a first for the Jura region.
- **Rare Champagne's Emilien Bouillat** was named **Sparkling Winemaker of the Year**, an accolade he also claimed in 2021. Impressing judges with its "intoxicating and alluring nose, featuring aromas of fresh baked pastry, apple crumble and Sorrento lemons," his **Rare Millésime 2008** was named **Champion Sparkling Wine**.

Germany awarded Champion Sweet Wine

This year, Germany has proven its prowess in the production of its sweet wines.

- **Weingut Hans Wirsching** took home the **Champion Sweet Wine** for its "incredible high-wire wine" **Iphöfer Julius-Echter-Berg Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese 2021**.

- The Franken producer also took home a total of 14 medals in the 2023 competition as well as the **German White Trophy** for its **Iphöfer Julius-Echter-Berg Riesling 2021**, making it the only producer in Germany to win a trophy in this year's challenge.

Sherry stands out in Spain

Spain's reputation for world-class fortified wine was left in no doubt in this year's challenge.

- For the first time, **Bodegas Fernando De Castilla** claimed **Champion Fortified Wine** with its **Oloroso Singular**.
- Elsewhere in Jerez-Sherry, **Marcos Alguacil** from **Bodegas Osborne** was named **Fortified Winemaker of the Year**, having received 12 medals as well as the **Amontillado Trophy** for his "exceptional" **Amontillado en Rama La Honda** which judges described as having "beguiling aromas of grilled nuts with pistachios and chocolate-covered hazelnuts."

Argentinian Malbec named as world's best

Argentina's reputation for world-class Malbec was left in no doubt as the nation reclaimed the **International Malbec Trophy**, which it last won in 2018, the last time this trophy was awarded.

- This title went to **Huentala Wines** for its "incredibly vibrant and intense" **Huentala Calizo Carmin Block 3 2020** which also won the **Argentinian Red Trophy** and the **Mendoza Malbec Trophy**.
- It was also an Argentinian Malbec which reclaimed the **IWC Fairtrade Award** from South Africa. Mendoza producer **Bodega Argento** claimed this accolade with its **Artesano de Argento Organic Fairtrade Malbec 2021**, which judges described as "aromatic with rose petals and cooked fruit."

Australian success for fortified wine and Cabernet Sauvignon

It was another stellar year for Australia winning awards for fortified wine and Cabernet Sauvignon.

- **Riddoch The Pastoralist Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon 2021** by **Paragon Wine Estates** claimed the **International Cabernet Sauvignon Trophy**, which judges described as having "wonderful herbal cassis fruit" and "varietal typicity."
- Victoria's **Morris Wines** took home the **IWC Award for Consistency over 5 years**, having won six Gold Medals and three trophies this year for its fortified wines, including the **Australian Fortified Trophy** which went to its **Old Premium Rare Muscat** and the **Australian Tawny Trophy** for its **Old Premium Rare Tawny**.

Austrian Sauvignon Blanc takes the top spot

Austria saw huge success this year with wins for Sauvignon Blanc, Riesling and Sweet Winemaker of the Year.

- **Weingut Schneeberger** won the **International Sauvignon Blanc Trophy** for a second year having previously won it in 2021. This year, it was the **Sauvignon Blanc Kittenberg Südsteiermark 2021** that took the top spot.
- **Winzer Krems Eg** took home the **International Riesling Trophy** for its **Kremser Kreuzberg Riesling Kremstal Dac Reserve 2021** which judges described as "complex and concentrated with saffron, white flowers and mouth-watering acidity."

- There was further success for Burgenland winemaker **Hans Tschida** from **Angerhof Tschida**, who won **Sweet Winemaker of the Year** for the third year in a row. This is the ninth time he has won this award since 2010, reaffirming his exceptional winemaking abilities.

New Zealand's Natalie Christensen named IWC's White Winemaker of the Year

- **Natalie Christensen**, chief winemaker at **Yealands Wine Group**, has been awarded the prestigious title of **IWC White Winemaker of the Year**. Yealands Wine Group produced a spectacular set of results in this year's challenge, claiming 12 medals as well as the **New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc Trophy** for its **Yealands Estate Single Block S1 Sauvignon Blanc 2022**.
- Fellow Marlborough producer **Giesen Group** also shone, achieving 20 medals as well as the **International Syrah Trophy** for its **Giesen Single Vineyard Clayvin Syrah 2021**.
- The **Organic Trophy, for best certified organic wine in show**, went to Greystone Wines in Waipara for its **Greystone Chardonnay 2021**
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Victory for South African Chardonnay

In this year's challenge, **Paul Cluver Wines** proved that South African Chardonnay can stand up to other winemaking heavyweights and previous winners, France, New Zealand and Australia.

- Paul Cluver Wines took home the **International Chardonnay Trophy** for its **Seven Flags Chardonnay 2021**. This wine was also awarded the **South African White Trophy** and the **IWC Sustainable Trophy 2023** in recognition of the winery's eco-friendly farming and winemaking practices. The Elgin producer took home medals for a further six wines.

Chile claims Red Winemaker of the Year for the first time

An impressive first came for Chile, which claimed the **Red Winemaker of the Year** award for the first time.

- This title went to **Rafael Urrejola**, chief winemaker at **Viña Undurraga**, which was also the only Chilean producer to win a trophy in this year's challenge. In total, the Maipo Valley winery claimed twelve medals as well as all three of the country's regional trophies plus the **Chilean Red Trophy**. This went to its **T.H. Carignan Maule 2021** which judges described as "fabulously fruity with plums, bramble fruit, forest and mulberries."

English producer wins newcomer award

English wine producer Lympstone Manor Estate won the highly coveted trophy for Best Wine in First Year of Production for its Triassic Pinot Noir 2020, proving that England can take on the rest of the world when it comes to red wine production.

Wines judged "best in show" at the International Wine Challenge 2023:

France	Rare Champagne Millésime 2008	IWC Champion Sparkling Wine 2023 - Daniel Thibault Trophy , Champagne Trophy, Vintage Classic Blend Champagne Trophy
France	Edouard Delaunay Chambertin Grand Cru Rouge 2020	IWC Champion Red Wine 2023 , International Pinot Noir Trophy, French Red Trophy, Chambertin Trophy, Burgundy Red Trophy
France	Michel Tissot & Fils Château-Chalon Vin Jaune 2015	IWC Champion White Wine 2023 , French White Trophy, Jura White Trophy
Germany	Weingut Hans Wirsching Iphöfer Julius-Echter-Berg Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese 2021	IWC Champion Sweet Wine 2023 - Alois Kracher Trophy , German Sweet Trophy
Spain	Bodegas Fernando De Castilla Oloroso Singular	IWC Champion Fortified Wine 2023 - Manuel Lozano Trophy , Sherry Trophy, Oloroso Trophy
Argentina	Huentala Calizo Carmin Block 3 2020	International Malbec Trophy , Argentinian Red Trophy, Mendoza Malbec Trophy
Australia	Paragon Wine Estates Riddoch The Pastoralist Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon 2021	International Cabernet Sauvignon Trophy , Australian Cabernet Sauvignon Trophy
Austria	Winzer Krems Eg Kremser Kreuzberg Riesling Kremstal Dac Reserve 2021	International Riesling Trophy , Austrian White Trophy, Austrian Riesling Trophy
Austria	Weingut Schneeberger Sauvignon Blanc Kittenberg Südsteiermark 2021	International Sauvignon Blanc Trophy , Austrian Sauvignon Blanc Trophy
New Zealand	Giesen Single Vineyard Clayvin Syrah 2021	International Syrah Trophy , New Zealand Red Trophy, New Zealand Syrah Trophy
New Zealand	Greystone Wines, Greystone Chardonnay 2021	Organic Trophy , New Zealand White Trophy, New Zealand Chardonnay Trophy
South Africa	Paul Cluver Seven Flags Chardonnay 2021	International Chardonnay Trophy , IWC Sustainable Trophy, South African White Trophy
England	Lympstone Manor Estate Triassic Pinot Noir 2020	Best Wine in First Year of Production , English Red Trophy

IWC Winemakers of the Year 2023:

France	Sparkling Winemaker of the Year	Emilien Boutillat, Rare Champagne
Chile	Red Winemaker of the Year	Rafael Urrejola, Viña Undurraga
New Zealand	White Winemaker of the Year	Natalie Christensen, Yealands Wine Group
Austria	Sweet Winemaker of the Year	Hans Tschida, Angerhof Tschida

Spain	Fortified Winemaker of the Year	Marcos Alguacil, Bodegas Osborne
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The full list of Trophy and Champion award winners at the 2023 International Wine Challenge released on 4th July can be found [here](#).

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

In its 39th year, the International Wine Challenge is widely acknowledged as the world's most rigorous, impartial, influential and global wine competition. The IWC 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 offer a trusted guarantee of quality.

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