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International Wine Challenge 2026 results set a global benchmark as wine quality spreads worldwide



Chris Ashton, owner of The International Wine Challenge is thrilled with the results. Credit: Ben Etridge

The International Wine Challenge, widely regarded as the world's most influential, impartial and meticulously judged global wine competition, has just unveiled its 2026 medal and Trophy results marking the final awards announced under the competition's current format ahead of a major global rebrand launching in June.

The results offer a compelling snapshot of the global wine landscape. Historic regions continue to lead, while an ever-wider range of countries, styles and price points are also now competing confidently at the highest level as quality spreads worldwide and winning wines becoming more stylistically diverse and also more accessible to consumers.

With competition entries rising 7% year-on-year, the medal tables this year point to both enduring excellence and accelerating global breadth, from top-scoring fortified wines and Trophy-winning sparklers to award-winning supermarket bottles.

Fortified and sparkling wines continued to deliver some of the highest scores, with standout results from Champagne, the Douro (Port) and Jerez (Sherry) among the competition's defining bottles, with **Menin Porto Tawny 80 Anos** (98 points) and **Rare Champagne, Rare Magnum 2012** (98 points), the joint highest scoring wines in the competition.

Another competition stand out was England with the highest percentage of wines winning a Gold medal. IWC Co-Chair Sam Caporn MW said, *“It’s really wonderful that over 16% of English entries were awarded not just medals, but Gold medals. This is an incredible achievement and testament to the quality of the wines being produced in the country right now.”* Co-Chair Oz Clarke added, *“It is now clear that champagne has a genuine rival in England and the battle for top sparkler will be keenly fought over the next few years.”*

Historic European regions remain the benchmark, with Champagne leading the regional Gold table and classic areas such as Burgundy, Douro, Jerez and Rioja continuing to dominate at Gold level. In the new world, South Australia, Tasmania, Mendoza, and Marlborough were the regional highlights and from the UK, Kent was the stand out region.

International Wine Challenge owner, Chris Ashton is thrilled with the results and said, *“What is exciting to see this year is that the top awards are increasingly global, reflecting a broader geographical distribution of wine excellence from both classic and emerging regions. Another standout this year is how accessible award-winning wines have become, with multiple 95-point Gold medals awarded to wines available through independent merchants, specialist retailers and major supermarkets alike, alongside fine-wine Trophy winners; demonstrating exceptional quality and value across all levels of the market. The results this year position the IWC as a clear barometer of the global wine market.”*

New for 2026, is the **IWC ICON** selection, which recognises wines that producers believe best define the character, ambition and identity of their estate. From flagship fine wines to distinctive terroir expressions and rare bottlings, ICON is intended to spotlight defining wines rather than simply the highest scoring wines. Producers from over 10 countries and 20 regions entered their wines into the inaugural competition and the wines were judged by a dedicated ICON panel. See the full icon results [here](#).





Some of the world's top 200 wine tasters gathered in London last month to judge the wines at the International Wine Challenge. Credit: David Rowlands

Top 15 country rankings by medals

Medals were awarded to 39 winemaking countries, with new entrants to the medal table from Switzerland, Montenegro, Sweden, India, Malta and Ireland.

Co-Chair Helen McGinn commented: *"This year's competition was the most excitingly diverse to date with incredible wines from some of the finest regions in the world alongside places you just didn't expect! The quality of the wines entered really does get better and better every year. This year we saw particularly strong performances from England and Australia among others and I love how the IWC enables us to unearth Gold medals for wines as diverse as an 80 year old Tawny in one flight and a supermarket own label Champagne in another."*

The list offers a valuable snapshot of global wine industry trends, showing top scoring producers, identifying emerging regions, and acting as a barometer for tracking the global wine market. The full list of medal and trophy winners in the 2026 International Wine Challenge can be viewed [here](#).

Note to editors: The following pages list is the top countries by numbers of medals awarded. If you are interested in your particular country the list is as follows: France (1), Spain (2), Portugal (3), Italy (4), Australia (5), South Africa (6), New Zealand (7), Argentina (8), England (9), Chile (10), Japan (11), Croatia (12), Austria (13), Georgia (14), USA (15).

Number 1: France

France leads: most Gold medals, standout Trophy winners and benchmark regions Champagne & Burgundy

France reaffirmed its central role in the global fine wine landscape entering the largest number of wines and securing the highest number of Gold medals overall. Across the results, France's benchmark regions continued to set the pace; from Champagne at the top of the global regional Gold table to Burgundy's leading Trophy performance. French wines also featured among standout supermarket selections and the inaugural ICON list.

- France won the most Gold medals and Trophies overall, supported by the largest entry base in IWC 2026
- Champagne leads the global regional Gold table with 30 Gold medals, ahead of Burgundy with 26
- Champagne once again delivered some of the highest scoring wines of the competition with **Rare Champagne Rare Magnum 2012** (98 points) the joint highest scoring wine in the competition and winning two Trophies. Judges described the wine as, *“rich layered nose with citrus and hazelnuts and on the palate it's perfectly balanced with power and finesse. There's a gorgeous touch of umami too and the flavour just keeps going.”*
- Other Champagne Trophy wine include:
 - **Laurent-Perrier Héritage NV** (96 points)
 - **Champagne Canard Duchêne, Blanc de Blancs Iconic NV** (96 points)
 - **Champagne Henriot, Henriot l'Inattendue Chardonnay Grand Cru** (95 points)
- Burgundy confirmed its position as one of the world's leading fine wine regions. Among the standout wines this year were:
 - **Maison Albert Bichot's Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru Domaine du Pavillon 2024** (97 points) won four Trophies including *White Burgundy Trophy* and *French White Trophy*
 - Producers from Burgundy that continue to perform well are **La Chalisienne, Maison Albert Bichot** and **Edouard Delaunay**
- Among the competition's most talked-about results was the success of **Queen Côtes de Provence Rosé 2025**, (95 points) produced by **Les Caves du Commandeur** and submitted by Watermill Wines, which won the Provence Rosé Trophy. Judges praised its pale pink colour, fresh redcurrant and citrus aromas, tissue-paper-soft texture and “pure Provence vibes”. The wine forms part of the recently launched Queen wine project involving members of the legendary British rock band, with drummer Roger Taylor taking an active role in the creation of the blend. Combining the global cultural recognition of Queen with classic Provençal rosé winemaking, the result reflects the growing intersection between music, lifestyle and premium wine.
- Another key result was **Château de Sours**, owned by Jack Ma the founder of Alibaba, which won the Bordeaux Blanc Trophy with **Montesours 2024** (95 points)
- Retail ready: France also featured in retail-ready winners, including **Tesco Finest Picpoul de Pinet 2024 Les Costières de Pomerols** (95 points) and **M&S Champagne Delacourt Vintage Blanc de Blancs 2017** (95 points)
- ICON recognition: **Domaine du Clos des Poulettes, Nuits St Georges 1er Cru, 2023** (Burgundy) (95 points)

Number 2: Spain

Spain shines with Gold-winning Sherries, Rioja strength and major Trophy success

Spain delivered a standout showing, with particularly strong performances in classic regions including Jerez (14 Golds) and Rioja (11 Golds) and multiple top awards across red, white and fortified categories. From 95-point VORS Sherries to headline-making Trophy wins and an ICON wine from Galicia, Spain's results underline both depth and diversity across styles.

- Top Gold regions: Spain's regional Gold medals were concentrated in two classic strongholds — Jerez-Sherry (14 Golds) and Rioja (11 Golds)
- 95-point Sherry Golds: In Jerez, **Castillo de Monteviejo** secured Gold (95 points) for both **Tabajete VORS Oloroso NV** and **Tabajete VORS Palo Cortado NV**, underlining the longevity and quality of VORS styles. Further Sherry wins came from **Emilio Lustau** with three Trophies (Amontillado, Cream Sherry and Pedro Ximénez)
- Spain delivered significant Trophy wins across Rioja, Jerez and beyond. **Imaz Gran Reserva 2019 El Coto de Rioja** (97 points) won the Rioja Gran Reserva Trophy, Rioja Trophy and Spanish Red Trophy
- Spanish White Trophy wins: **Albanta 2025 Bodegas Altos de Torona** (96 points) won the Galician White Trophy and Spanish White Trophy; **Bodega Torralba Alba Blanca Menorca 2025** (95 points) won the Menorca White Trophy
- Retail ready: Spain had a standout wine in UK retail with **Sainsbury's Taste the Difference Rioja Gran Reserva 2018, CVNE, Spain** (90 points)
- Icon recognition: **Rafael Palacios Sorto O Sorro 2023** (Galicia) (96 points)

Number 3: Portugal

Portugal excels: Douro leads outside France and fortified wines dominate

Moving up from fourth place in 2025 to third this year, Portugal delivered one of the strongest performances of the competition relative to entry numbers, with the Douro again emerging as a global hotspot for both still and fortified wines. With the joint highest scoring wine in the competition, the 98-point, decades-old **Menin Tawny Port 80 Anos**, to major Trophy wins across Port, Madeira and Douro reds, Portugal's results underline world-class quality, ageing pedigree and remarkable breadth.

- Gold success rate: Portugal achieved a 9% success rate, placing it among the strongest performers among major wine-producing countries
- Douro leads beyond France: The Douro was highlighted as the strongest non-French region, securing 23 Gold medals, driven heavily by Port and fortified styles alongside still reds
- Major win for Port: **Menin Porto Tawny 80 Anos NV** (98 points) was the joint highest scoring wine in the competition and won the Tawny Port Trophy and Port Trophy. Judges praised it for its *"classic nose with treacle and toffee notes, ripe figs and prunes along with soft stone fruit. On the palate, apricots and cocoa nibs."*

- More Trophies for Port and Madeira: Portugal's other Trophy results included, **D'Oliveiras Verdelho 1981** (97 points) (Verdelho Trophy and Madeira Trophy), **Taylor's Single Harvest 1976** (96 points) (Single Harvest Port Trophy), **Quinta do Crasto Vintage Port 2018** (95 points) (Vintage Port Trophy) and **Dalva Porto Colheita White 2015** (96 points) (White Port Trophy)
- Still wine strength: **Lua Cheia Reserva 2021** (96 points) won both the Douro Red Trophy and Portuguese Red Trophy, reinforcing Portugal's growing reputation for premium still wines alongside fortified classics
- Retail ready: Portugal featured among award-winning supermarket wines, including **Fletcher's LBV Port 2021** (Aldi) (95 points)
- ICON recognition: Quinta do Crasto Touriga Nacional 2020 (Douro) (95 points)

Number 4: Italy

Italy impresses: Barolo, Franciacorta and Taurasi lead a diverse Trophy winning line-up

Up one place from fifth to fourth, Italy delivered a strong, wide-ranging performance outperforming several larger entrants on its Gold conversion rate and securing major top awards across red, sparkling and sweet styles. From a Trophy-winning Barolo to premium Franciacorta and a 95-point Taurasi from Campania, the results highlight both Italy's regional depth and its continuing ability to compete at the highest level.

- Major Trophy success for Piedmont: **G.D. Vajra Barolo Ravera 2022** (96 points) won both the Barolo Trophy and the Italian Red Trophy
- Trophy wine from southern Italy: Winning the Campanian Trophy was **Borgodangelo Taurasi 2019** (95 points), highlighting the continued quality of Aglianico-based wines
- Premium sparkling strength: **Derbusco Cives Franciacorta Pas Dosé Épique 2016** (96 points) won both the Franciacorta Trophy and the Italian Sparkling Trophy, underlining the category's growing international profile
- Additional Italian Trophy winners spanned classic styles and regions, including **Tenuta di Capezzana Vinsanto Capezzana Riserva 2018** (97 points), **Bisol1542 Crede Brut Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore 2025** (95 points) and **Broglia Gavi DOCG del Comune di Gavi Villa Broglia 2024** (95 points)
- Retail-ready winners: Italy featured among award-winning supermarket wines, including **Exceptional Asti NV** (Aldi) (95 points) and **Tesco Finest Barolo Fratelli Martini Secondo Luigi 2021** (95 points)
- Depth across regions: Italy's wider awards showed ongoing medal strength from producers across Tuscany, Veneto and Piedmont, reflecting the breadth of its regional wine landscape

Number 5: Australia

Australia powers ahead: regional depth and four-Trophy Barossa Shiraz

Australia delivered one of the strongest performances relative to its entry volume, combining a high Gold conversion rate (almost one in ten) with exceptional regional breadth. With South Australia and Tasmania leading the medal tables, and a Barossa Shiraz taking four Trophies, Australia's results underline continued global strength across Shiraz, Grenache, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay and premium sparkling.

- Gold success rate: Australia achieved a 9.35% Gold medal success rate, placing it among the strongest performers among major wine-producing countries
- Regional depth: Australia showed real breadth across regions, with South Australia winning 21 Gold medals and Tasmania on 13, spanning styles including Shiraz, Grenache/Shiraz/Mourvèdre, Riesling, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and sparkling wines
- Four-Trophy Barossa Shiraz: **Beresford Wines Classic Shiraz 2023** (97 points) was one of IWC 2026's most decorated wines, winning four Trophies: South Australian Shiraz Trophy, Australian Shiraz Trophy, Australian Red Trophy and International Syrah Trophy
- Major Trophy wins across categories: Australia's Trophy winners included **Penfolds Bin 407 Cabernet Sauvignon 2023** (96 points) (Australian Cabernet Sauvignon Trophy; International Cabernet Sauvignon Trophy), **Tolpuddle Chardonnay 2024** (96 points) (Tasmanian Chardonnay Trophy; Australian White Trophy), **MMAD Vineyard Grenache 2024** (96 points) (Australian Grenache Trophy), **Morris Classic Muscat NV** (95 points) (Australian Fortified Trophy) and **House of Arras Grand Vintage 2017** (96 points) (Australian Sparkling Trophy)
- Retail ready: Australia featured among award-winning supermarket wines, including **M&S Collection Barossa Valley Shiraz 2024** (95 points)
- Producer consistency: Australia was highlighted among countries with consistent medal success, with producers including **Penfolds** and **Blue Pyrenees Estate**
- ICON recognition: Australia featured in the inaugural ICON selection with **Golden Amrita Estate Reserve Shiraz 2019** (Barossa Valley) (97 points) one of the highest scoring wines in the competition

Co-Chair Oz Clarke said, "Australia remains a powerhouse of exciting reds and whites, but the landscape is changing. Barossa and Maclaren Vale performed really well, but not only with Shiraz - Grenache is now a real star performer from a wealth of old vines. And Tasmania is no longer a wine buff's curiosity. The sparklers have been superb for quite a while, but the reds, and particularly the whites, are now some of Australia's finest."

Number 6: South Africa

South Africa stands out: Stellenbosch Golds and a strong showing across top Trophy categories

South Africa delivered a high-impact performance, with Stellenbosch once again proving a benchmark region. Alongside 95-point Gold medal success for a leading Bordeaux-style blend, South Africa also featured among this year's Trophy winners, reinforcing the country's strength across classic Cabernet Sauvignon, premium white blends and modern Shiraz.

- Trophy winners included: **Kleine Zalze Family Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2021**, **Constantia Glen Two 2024** and **Babylonstoren Shiraz 2023** all with 95 points

Number 7: New Zealand

New Zealand delivers: Trophy-winning Pinot Noir and Sauvignon Blanc

New Zealand reinforced its reputation for world-class cool-climate wines, with major Trophy wins across both Pinot Noir and Sauvignon Blanc and a strong run of 95-point results in Marlborough. From Martinborough's top red to Marlborough's defining white style, plus award-winning supermarket selections, the results underline New Zealand's breadth across premium and accessible wines alike.

- Major red Trophy success: **Nga Waka Lease Block Pinot Noir 2024** (96 points), was one of the most decorated wines of IWC 2026, winning four Trophies (Martinborough Pinot Noir Trophy, New Zealand Pinot Noir Trophy, New Zealand Red Trophy and International Pinot Noir Trophy)
- Major white Trophy success: Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough's flagship style dominated the white categories, with **Delta Sauvignon Blanc 2025** (96 points) winning the Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc Trophy, New Zealand White Trophy and International Sauvignon Blanc Trophy
- Further Trophy-winning breadth: Additional New Zealand Trophy winners include **Rockburn Crimson Peak Pinot Noir 2024** (96 points), **Passage Rock Reserve Syrah 2021** (96 points), **Marisco Emma Marris Chardonnay 2024** (95 points) and **Marisco Diamond Heart Waihopai Cuvée 2020** (95 points)
- Retail ready: New Zealand featured among Trophy-winning supermarket wines, with **Exceptional Botrytis Riesling 2017** (Aldi) (95 points)

Co-Chair Oz Clarke commented, "*New Zealand's Marlborough has been making better and better wines this decade, both red and white and it was very satisfying to see how the different subregions are now making very recognisably individual wines.*"

Number 8: Argentina

Argentina triumphs: 97-point Mendoza Malbec and consistent standout producers

Argentina delivered major success, led by Mendoza's continued dominance and a series of top awards for Malbec and Cabernet Franc. With a 97-point Mendoza Malbec named among the competition's defining wines, plus Gold and Trophy wins from leading producers across Mendoza and Patagonia, Argentina's results underline both peak quality and impressive consistency.

- Mendoza anchored Argentina's performance across the results, repeatedly highlighted as the country's key region for premium wine and international reputation
- Trophy haul: **Huentalá Calizo Albar Block 06 Malbec 2023** (97 points) won the Mendoza Malbec Trophy, Argentinian Malbec Trophy and Argentinian Red Trophy
- Further Trophy success beyond Mendoza: Argentina also won Trophies with **Trivento Golden Reserve Cabernet Franc 2024** (95 points) and **HJ Fabre Patagonia Barrel Selection Malbec 2025** (96 points), highlighting both Mendoza and Patagonia
- ICON recognition: Argentina featured in the inaugural ICON selection with two Mendoza wines from **Catena Zapata: Nicasia Vineyard 2023** (95 points) and **Malbec Argentino 2023** (95 points)

Number 9: England

England leads the pack: highest Gold conversion rate of the competition and a standout run of Trophy-winning sparkling wines

England delivered one of the most remarkable performances of the whole competition, recording the highest Gold medal conversion rate among major wine-producing countries and securing a broad spread of top awards. From Kent's leadership in regional Golds to a string of Trophy wins across classic English sparkling styles, plus multiple 95–97 point highlights, the results underline England's continued rise as a world-class wine producing country.

- England had the highest Gold success rate among major producers: 16% of English wines entered achieved Gold medals, the highest conversion rate among all countries
- Kent led England's regional performance as the best-performing English region, with 12 Gold medals, driven mainly by sparkling wine and Chardonnay
- Wiston Estate (West Sussex) wins two Trophies: **Wiston Estate Vintage Cuvée Magnum 2009** (97 points) won the English Sparkling Classic Blend Trophy and the English Sparkling Trophy
- More Trophies: Additional English Trophy winners included **The Grange White From Black 2019** (96 points) (Hampshire), **Chapel Down Rosé NV** (95 points) (Kent), **Bolney Cuvée Rosé 2016** (96 points) (West Sussex), **Everflyht Cuvée Edition 3 NV** (95 points) (Hampshire), **Hundred Hills Blanc de Blancs Library Release 2018** (96 points)

(Oxfordshire) and **1276 Wines Chardonnay 2024** (95 points) (Herefordshire), demonstrating depth beyond a single estate or style

Sam Caporn MW commented, *“As English vines age and also as older, more complex reserve wines become available to use in blends, I think it is fair to say that the sparkling wines in particular are getting better and better. And it wasn't just fizz that were winning the top gongs, but superlative still wines too which also impressed the judges and Co-Chairs. A category and country that is on the up and deservedly so!”*

Number 10: Chile

Chile highlights: 95-point Carmenère and top-scoring Bordeaux varieties from leading regions

Chile delivered strong results, with leading producers once again performing well across the country's flagship Bordeaux varieties. A 95-point Carmenère from Aconcagua and a top-scoring Cabernet Sauvignon from Maipo underline Chile's continuing ability to combine value, precision and regional identity at the highest levels of international competition. Also of note was the increasing recognition that Chile received for its cooler-climate and coastal Syrah styles.

- Regional credibility: Chile was referenced as delivering strong results from its leading wine regions, underlining ongoing international confidence in terroirs such as Aconcagua (Carmenère) and Maipo (Cabernet Sauvignon)
- Trophy wins: there were two Trophy wins for **Viña Unduragga Extinto 2024** (95 points) (Chilean Red Trophy, Carmenerere Trophy), and a further win for **T.H. Syrah Leyda 2024** (96 points) (Chilean Syrah Trophy)
- ICON recognition: Purple Angel 2021, Montes Wines (Colchagua Valley) (95 points)

Number 11: Japan

Japan rises: five Gold medals, a Japanese white Trophy win and standout 95-point wines

Japan continued its rapid ascent on the international wine stage, securing five Gold medals and taking home a headline Trophy win. With multiple 95-point wines from Nagano and Yamanashi, plus ICON recognition for a flagship Japanese bottling, the results reflect both growing confidence in international varieties and renewed attention on Japan's indigenous Koshu.

- Japan secured five Gold medals, underscoring the continued rise of Japanese wines on the global stage
- Trophy winner: **Chânmoris Kankitsu-Ka Katsunuma Koshu 8600 Bottles 2025** (95 points) won the Japanese White Trophy highlighting growing international recognition for Koshu wines

- Producer spotlight: **Château Mercian** was highlighted as one of the leading Japanese wineries gaining international recognition, with two Gold (95 points) wines: **Mariko Omnis 2019** and **Kikyogahara Merlot Signature 2020**
- Newcomer momentum: **Suntory From Farm (Yamanashi)** was named among standout newcomers achieving first Gold medals, with **Tomii Koshu 2024** and **Tomii Red 2023** each awarded 95 points
- ICON recognition: Japan featured in the inaugural ICON selection with **Château Mercian Mariko Omnis 2019** (Nagano) (93 points), reinforcing its status as one of the country's benchmark fine wines.

Co-Chair Oz Clarke said, *"I have just returned from Japan, so I was really encouraged to see Japan's hard work and passionate commitment to quality, under challenging climatic conditions, being rewarded with five Gold medals."*

Number 12: Croatia

Croatia earns recognition: Croatian White Trophy win and growing presence among medal-winning nations

Up one place from 2025, Croatia featured in the results as part of an increasingly global spread of medal-winning quality, and secured a headline Trophy win for a flagship white variety. Croatia is emerging with its own unique Adriatic/Mediterranean fine wine identity and is gaining visibility with its indigenous varieties.

- Trophy winner: **Damjanić Malvazija Istarska 2025** (95 points), won the Croatian White Trophy, highlighting the quality potential of Istria's signature white grape
- Medal presence: Croatia was among the smaller European wine-producing nations appearing as medal winners, reflecting the widening geographical distribution of top-scoring wines. Of particular note were two gold medals each for **Black Island Winery** and **Damjanić Wines**
- Global context: Croatia also featured in the broader narrative of an increasingly international roster of top-award winners, alongside countries such as Japan, China, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Lebanon, Turkey, North Macedonia and Canada.

Number 13: Austria

Austria delivers strong quality: standout results from a smaller entry base with stellar performance for Riesling and sweet wines

Up one place from 2025, Austria continued to demonstrate impressive quality, delivering a strong Gold conversion rate despite a smaller overall entry base. Highlighted alongside other high-performing smaller entrants, Austria's results reinforce its reputation for precision winemaking especially when it comes to Riesling and sweeter styles of wine.

- Gold success rate: Austria achieved a 7.94% Gold success rate, cited among the strongest quality performances outside the largest entry bases
- High-performing small entrants: Austria was highlighted alongside Greece (9.68%) and Canada (11.11%) as demonstrating strong results relative to the number of wines entered
- Strong medals wins: **Weingut Tschida Angerhof** was awarded three Gold medals for its sweet wine and other Golds were won by **Weingut Allram** and **Weingut Rabal** for their Riesling wines
- Global context: Austria's performance was part of a wider picture in which smaller wine-producing nations are increasingly visible in top-scoring IWC results

Number 14: Georgia

Georgia builds momentum: Trophy wins showcasing qvevri and modern reds

Georgia continued its strong upward trajectory moving up one place from last year, delivering an impressive Gold conversion rate and securing multiple top awards. With Trophy-winning wines spanning both traditional qvevri-fermented whites and celebrated red styles, Georgia's results reinforce the country's growing international reputation and the global relevance of its winemaking heritage.

- Gold success rate: Georgia recorded a 7.14% Gold rate, highlighted among the strongest quality performances among smaller entry bases
- Trophy winners: **Glekhuri Rkatsiteli Qvevri 2025** (95 points) and **Shumi Salome 2020** (95 points) secured both white and red Trophy wins from the Kakheti region
- Georgia's results are a testimony to an ancient winemaking heritage meeting modern fine wine credibility with a growing recognition for qvevri winemaking practices
- Global context: Georgia featured within the wider story of an increasingly international roster of top-award winners, alongside countries such as Japan, China, Greece, Hungary, Lebanon, Turkey, North Macedonia, Croatia and Canada.

Number 15: USA

USA moves up five places: California's benchmark Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay remain in the spotlight despite smaller entry numbers

Producers from the United States once again featured among the medal winners, reflecting the ongoing strength and international reputation of key American wine regions. With California continuing to set benchmarks for both Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay, the results underline the enduring competitiveness of US wines on the global judging stage.

- California remains a benchmark: California remains strong with x number of medals coming from this key region known for producing internationally benchmark styles

- Herzog Wine Cellars from California won two Gold medals for its Cabernet Sauvignons and Truchard Vineyards also from California, won a Gold for a Cabernet Sauvignon/Cabernet Franc blend
- Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay in focus: Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay from California remain international reference points, underpinning the United States' standing in the global quality conversation

UK Supermarket wines

Supermarket wines shine at IWC 2026: 95-point Golds prove award-winning quality is on the high street

The results show that medal-winning quality is increasingly available through major UK retailers, with a selection of supermarket wines achieving Gold-level scores. From Champagne and Barossa Shiraz to Picpoul, Barolo and dessert wine, these 95-point bottles highlight how everyday shoppers can now access competition-recognised quality across a wide range of styles and origins.

- **M&S Champagne Delacourt *Vintage Blanc de Blancs 2017***, France (95 points)
- **M&S Collection *Barossa Valley Shiraz 2024***, Australia (95 points)
- **Exceptional *Botrytis Riesling 2017***, Aldi, New Zealand (95 points)
- **Exceptional *Asti NV***, Aldi, Italy (95 points)
- **Fletcher's *LBV Port 2021***, Aldi, Portugal (95 points)
- **Tesco Finest *Picpoul de Pinet 2024 Les Costières de Pomerols***, France (95 points)
- **Tesco Finest *Barolo 2021 Fratelli Martini Secondo Luigi***, Italy (95 points)
- **Sainsbury's Taste the Difference *Rioja Gran Reserva 2018***, CVNE, Spain (90 points)

Co-Chair Peter McCombie MW commented, *"This year we found a modern energy and precision in the wines and an impressive balance between genuinely accessible quality wines and fine wine excellence. We had a strong overall feeling that global wine quality continues to rise, so that consumers now able to find outstanding wines at every price point."*

The full list of 2026 International Wine Challenge award winners released can be seen [here](#).

The IWC Champion Wines for 2026, which are selected following a re-tasting by the IWC Co-Chairs of all the trophy-winning wines, will be revealed at the International Wine Challenge Industry Awards Dinner 2026 on Wednesday 8th September. Pre-register for tickets, don't miss out: <https://iwcindustryawards.com/2026/en/page/register-your-interest-tickets>

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

The International Wine Challenge

In its 42nd year, the International Wine Challenge is widely acknowledged as the world's most rigorous, impartial, influential and global wine competition. The International Wine Challenge assesses every wine 'blind' in London by international tasting panels of industry experts with every decision scrutinised by the Co-Chairs: Sam Caporn MW, Oz Clarke, Dr Jamie Goode, Peter McCombie MW and Helen McGinn for the wines' faithfulness to style, region and vintage. Medal winning wines are tasted multiple times before the results are confirmed.

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.

The 2026 results mark the final International Wine Challenge awards announced under the competition's current format ahead of a major global rebrand launching in June.

For more information on the IWC, please contact the IWC team at Phipps
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International Wine Challenge Results 2026: Medal Summary Table, ranked by total medals

Country	Ranking by medals	Ranking vs last year	Trophies	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total medals
France	1	-	14	67	359	423	849
Spain	2	-	14	36	193	208	437
Portugal	3	+1	11	45	129	162	336
Italy	4	+1	6	24	120	181	325
Australia	5	-2	10	38	131	99	268
South Africa	6	+1	3	11	101	109	221
New Zealand	7	-1	7	10	68	81	159
Argentina	8	-	3	11	44	66	121
England	9	-	7	25	48	42	115
Chile	10	-	2	10	33	64	107
Japan	11	-	1	8	24	59	91
Croatia	12	+1	1	5	22	43	70
Austria	13	+1	2	5	20	25	50
Georgia	14	+1	2	4	14	26	44
USA	15	+5	0	3	12	27	42
Turkey	16	-	1	2	20	19	41
Greece	17	+7	1	3	9	13	25
Canada	18	-6	1	4	4	16	24
Germany	19	-3	0	1	10	9	20

Moldova	20	+6	0		5	15	20
Brazil	21	-4	0		5	13	18
Romania	22	+3	0		2	15	17
North Macedonia	23	-5	1	1	6	10	17
Hungary	24	-3	1	2	6	9	17
Bulgaria	25	+8	0		3	12	15
Mexico	26	-3	0		2	10	12
Lebanon	27	+2	1	1	2	6	9
Ukraine	28	-1	0		1	6	7
China	29	-10	1	1	3	3	7
Uruguay	30	-	0		3	3	6
Switzerland	31	New	0		2	3	5
Peru	32	-4	0		2	1	3
Belgium	33	-2	0		1	1	2
Montenegro	34	New	0		1	1	2
Sweden	35	New	0			2	2
India	36	New	0			1	1
Malta	37	New	0			1	1
Egypt	38	-6	0			1	1
Ireland	39	New	0			1	1