

FRANCE CELEBRATES RECORD-BREAKING YEAR AT DECANTER WORLD WINE AWARDS 2026

France achieved its strongest-ever performance at the Decanter World Wine Awards, earning more top-tier medals than any other competing nation.

17 June: Results from Decanter World Wine Awards 2026 (DWWA) have revealed a landmark year for France, which secured its highest-ever tally of top-tier medals with 16 Best in Show, 42 Platinum and 196 Golds.

Now in its 23rd year, DWWA is recognised as the world's largest wine competition and is widely regarded as the global benchmark for wine quality, combining unrivalled judging expertise, international reach and a rigorous, transparent tasting process. This year nearly 17,000 wines from 58 countries were assessed by 245 judges drawn from 35 nations.

Medals awarded at DWWA range from the top-tier 50 Best in Show, then Platinum and Gold (all scoring 95+ points) followed by Silver and Bronze. This year the 50 Best in Show medals represented just 0.3% of wines tasted.

France dominated the competition overall with 254 top-tier medal winners – the country's best performance since the awards began.

Burgundy emerged as the competition's standout region for Best in Show medals, not only for France but globally, winning more of the top accolades than any other region in the world. It was the highest number of Best in Show medals it had ever recorded. It collected five Best in Show medals – three whites and two reds – including **Château Vitallis, Pouilly, Pouilly-Fuissé 1er Cru 2024**.

The region also secured four Platinum and 23 Gold medals, including one of the Top 35 Value Golds for **Prosper Maufoux, Chardonnay 2024**, recognising exceptional wines priced under £15.

Languedoc-Roussillon recorded its **best-ever results** with 36 top-tier medals. For the first time, the region earned two Best in Show awards, both for red blends, alongside three Platinum medals for Syrah-dominant reds and 31 Golds, including three Value Golds, one of which is in the Top 35 Value List.

The region also excelled in emerging categories, taking six of France's seven orange wine medals. Representing a move towards experimentation with Spanish varieties, the region also picked up Silver medals for **Les Vignerons Foncalieu, Sillages Albariño, IGP Pays d'Oc 2025** and **Ournac Frères, Le Frétillieur Brut Nature, Vin de France 2023**.

Champagne once again delivered a strong performance, earning two Best in Show medals, both for Blanc de Blancs wines from the 2012 vintage. The region also secured nine Platinum medals – including one for **Saint Réol, Brut Grand Cru Ambonnay 2008** in magnum format – and 35 Golds.

In **Bordeaux**, Merlot-dominant **Château L'Enclos, Pomerol 2023** was awarded Best in Show. The region secured seven Platinum medals – predominantly for red wines, with the exception of **Château Haut-Bergeron, Sauternes 2023** – and 24 Gold medals, including five Value Golds.

Loire stood out for quality and value. **Domaine de la Clartière, Terres de Paillé, Anjou 2024** received the only Value Platinum medal awarded across the competition. The region also collected five further Platinum medals for whites, with the exception of **Château de Sancerre, Cuvée du Connétable, Sancerre 2023** – a 100% Pinot Noir. **Menetou-Salon** claimed its first-ever Platinum with **Jean-Paul Picard, Le Pré-Long 2025**, reflecting the growing popularity of the appellation's Sauvignon Blanc wines.

Best in Show medals were awarded to wines from both **Sancerre** and **Savennières**, while Loire also achieved 18 Gold medals, including four Value Golds, one of which made it to the Top 35 Value Golds list.

Rhône secured two Best in Show medals, four Platinum and 20 Golds. Highlights included a Platinum for a white Châteauneuf-du-Pape and the **first-ever** Platinum for the sub-region **Duché d'Uzès**. Producer **Delas Frères** achieved the distinction of winning two Best in Show medals for its Côte-Rôtie and Hermitage reds, alongside two Platinitims and two Golds.

In **Provence**, producer **Château de l'Aumérade** won Best in Show for rosé **Marie-Christine, Côtes de Provence Cru Classé 2025**. The region also demonstrated growing diversity beyond rosé, with Platinum medals awarded to two Bandol reds and two Rolle-dominant whites, plus 24 Gold medals, including a Top Value Gold for **Romanin, IGP Alpilles 2025**.

Beaujolais celebrated a Best in Show medal for **Georges Duboeuf, Château Des Capitans, Juliénas 2023** alongside a Platinum for **Domaine Gagat, Côte du Py, Morgon 2024** and four Gold medals.

Savoie continued its rise as a region to watch, earning its **first-ever** Platinum medal for **Domaine Carrel & Senger, L'Éternel de Marestel Essentia 194, Roussette de Savoie Cru Marestel NV**. The mountain region also secured three Golds this year, including a Top Value Gold.

Alsace won a Platinum medal for **Domaine Kirrenbourg, Gewürztraminer, Grand Cru Schlossberg 2021**, alongside 11 Gold medals, including a Top Value Gold for **Dagobert, Prestige Rosé Brut, Crémant d'Alsace NV**.

Corsica earned its second-ever Platinum medal with **Orenga de Gaffory, Alzetana, Patrimonio 2023**, while the producer also received a Gold medal for **Cuvée Des Gouverneurs, Patrimonio 2023**.

In **Southwest France**, the sub-region of **Madiran** celebrated its first Platinum medal for **Château Arricau-Bordes 2021**, as well as a Gold for **Château de Crouseilles 2022**.

DWWA Co-Chair, Michael Hill Smith AM MW commented: 'The DWWA judging team is eclectic, diverse, dynamic and highly professional. I love having so much wine talent in one place and interacting with the good and the great throughout the judging process.'

Visit awards.decanter.com for a full list of winners.

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Notes to editors

France was awarded a total of 3,441 medals comprising 16 Best in Show, 42 Platinum, 196 Gold, 1,525 Silver and 1,662 Bronze medals.

The following wines won France's Best in Show medals:

- Albert Bichot, Hospices De Beaune Cuvée Docteur Peste, Corton Grand Cru, Burgundy 2024
- Bergerie Du Capucin, Dame Jeanne, Pic Saint Loup, Languedoc-Roussillon 2023
- Bong Ving, Putaing Cong Grenache-Carignan-Syrah, Maury Sec, Languedoc-Roussillon 2025
- Charles Collin, Cuvée Charles Blanc de Blancs Brut, Champagne 2012
- Château De L'Aumérade, Marie-Christine, Côtes de Provence Cru Classé, Provence 2025
- Château de Marsannay, En Orveaux, Vosne-Romanée 1er Cru, Burgundy 2023
- Château D'Epiré, Clos De Rochepin, Savennières-Roche aux Moines, Loire 2022
- Château L'Enclos, Pomerol, Bordeaux 2023
- Château Vitallis, Pouilly, Pouilly-Fuissé 1er Cru, Burgundy 2024
- De Saint-Gall, Orpale Blanc de Blancs Brut Grand Cru, Champagne 2012
- Delas Frères, Seigneur De Maugiron, Côte-Rôtie, Rhône 2023
- Delas Frères, Les Bessards, Hermitage, Rhône 2023
- Domaine Evenstad, Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru, Burgundy 2023
- Domaine Pinson Frères, Les Clos, Chablis Grand Cru, Burgundy 2024
- Georges Duboeuf, Château Des Capitans, Juliéna, Beaujolais 2023
- Jean-Paul Balland, Grande Cuvée, Sancerre, Loire 2023

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About DWWA

Launched in 2004 and now in its 23rd year, Decanter World Wine Awards (DWWA) is the world's largest wine competition.

Run by Decanter, the world's leading wine media brand, DWWA benefits from a trusted global audience of both trade and consumers, setting it apart from other competitions.

Sustainability remains a key focus for DWWA, with ongoing initiatives to reduce waste. In 2026 more than 20,000 single-use plastic bags previously used for blind tasting were replaced with reusable cotton alternatives, while more than 1,000 cardboard boxes are reused annually.

About Decanter

Decanter is the world's leading wine media brand, reaching over 2 million users each month across print, digital and social channels. Renowned for authoritative tastings and expert commentary, Decanter has played a defining role in the global wine conversation since its launch in 1975.