

UK WINES LEAD THE WORLD FOR SPARKLING MAGNUMS AT DECANTER WORLD WINE AWARDS AS EMERGING REGIONS CELEBRATE MEDAL FIRSTS

The UK records its best year at the awards, with its biggest medal haul to date, including landmark wins for Oxfordshire and Berkshire.

17 June: The Decanter World Wine Awards 2026 (DWWA) results have marked an exceptional year for UK wine, with British producers leading the world in medals for sparkling magnums and securing a record-breaking overall performance. There was also a first time Platinum for Berkshire and first time Gold for Oxfordshire.

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.

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.

The UK achieved one Best in Show, two Platinum, 10 Gold, 90 Silver and 114 Bronze medals – a total of 217 medals, making it the country's strongest showing to date, for top-tier medals and overall medal haul.

Commenting on the quality of wine in the UK, DWWA Regional Chair for UK, Simon Field MW, said: 'It's extremely exciting as it is on the up; the sparklers are every bit as good as most Champagnes and the still wines, once an after-thought are genuinely interesting and thoughtfully made.'

Best in Show was awarded to magnum **Balfour, Blanc de Blancs, Kent 2018**, reinforcing the UK's dominance in sparkling magnums. The category proved a standout success for British producers, with two additional Gold medals awarded to magnums: **Hundred Hills, Hillside No. 3 2019**, which earned **Oxfordshire** its first-ever Gold medal, and **Hambledon, Classic Cuvée Brut, Hampshire NV**. UK magnums also collected nine Silver medals.

Berkshire celebrated a historic first Platinum medal for boutique, organic producer Winding Wood Vineyard for **Winding Wood, Rosé Brut 2022**.

Sussex secured the UK's second Platinum medal with **Tidebrook, Staddle Stone Chardonnay 2023**. It marked Sussex county's first Platinum for a still wine and the first Platinum awarded to a still UK wine since 2022.

Sussex also delivered a strong performance with 52 medals overall. Alongside its Platinum win, the county secured four Gold medals, predominantly for sparkling white wines, with the exception of sparkling rosé **Coolhurst Vineyards, Lady Elizabeth Rosé 2018. Wiston** collected two Gold medals, while **Sugrue** – last year’s Best in Show winner – received Gold for **Cuvée Dr Brendan O’Regan NV**.

Further highlighting the growing geographical diversity of UK winemaking, **Rutland** received its first-ever DWWA medals with producer The Rutland Vineyard claiming two Bronze medals.

Kent topped the UK medal table with 56 medals, including the country’s only Best in Show and two Gold medals for **Chapel Down, Kit’s Coty Coeur de Cuvée Extra Brut 2016**, which was awarded an impressive 96 points and **Gusbourne, Boot Hill Vineyard Chardonnay 2022**.

Hampshire earned 19 medals, including two Golds for **Hambledon**: one for its magnum **Classic Cuvée Brut NV** and another for its **Blanc de Blancs Brut NV**.

Buckinghamshire received a high-scoring Silver medal, with **Harrow & Hope No.10 Reserve Brut NV** awarded 94 points.

Essex won five medals, including Silver medals for **Lyme Bay Winery’s** Pinot Noir and Bacchus. **Vagabond** also received a Bronze medal for its orange wine, **Night Tripper 2024**.

Oxfordshire enjoyed a breakthrough year with 11 medals overall. In addition to its historic Gold medal for **Hundred Hills, Hillside No.3 2019**, the county also won five Silver and five Bronze medals.

Gloucestershire secured four Silver and two Bronze medals across a range of styles, including still Sauvignon Blanc and Solaris, a sparkling rosé and two Blanc de Blancs.

Herefordshire won four Silver medals and one Bronze for Bacchus, Rosé Brut, Pinot Noir Précoce and Chardonnay wines.

In **Wales**, **Monmouthshire** received a Silver medal for **White Castle, Pinot Noir Précoce 2023**, while **Pembrokeshire** followed last year’s first-ever win with two Bronze medals.

Williams Family Wines in **Cambridgeshire** earned two Bronze medals for its Bacchus and Pinot Noir Précoce. **Norfolk** collected two Silver and three Bronze medals, **Wiltshire** secured one Silver and one Bronze, and **Devon** one Bronze.

Field MW commented: 'It's fascinating to see some genuinely impressive wines from counties such as Buckinghamshire and Suffolk; some from even further north!'

UK SUPERMARKETS AS TOP WINNERS

Major UK supermarkets also performed strongly, with medal-winning wines available through Tesco, Co-op, Sainsbury's, Asda, Waitrose and Marks & Spencer.

Awards included Platinum, Gold and Top Value Gold medals, the latter recognising exceptional wines priced under £15 at the time of judging. The results highlight the breadth of high-quality, award-winning wines now available to UK consumers across a wide range of styles and regions.

Tesco

- Villa Maria, Tesco Finest* Black Birch Single Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc, Awatere Valley, Marlborough, New Zealand 2025 | *Platinum, 97 points*
- Symington Family Estates, Tesco Finest*, Late Bottled Vintage, Port, Portugal 2020 | *Top Value Gold, 96 points*
- Tesco, finest* Grand Cru Brut, Champagne, France 2019 | *Gold, 95 points*
- Melini, Tesco finest*, Chianti Classico Riserva, Tuscany, Italy 2021 | *Top Value Gold, 95 points*
- Symington Family Estates, Tesco Finest*, 10 Year Old Tawny, Port, Portugal NV | *Top Value Gold, 95 points*

Co-Op

- Real Companhia Velha, The Co-Operative Irresistible, Douro, Portugal 2024 | *Gold, 95 points*
- The Co-operative, Irresistible Malbec, Bío Bío Valley, Chile 2024 | *Gold, 95 points*

Sainsburys

- Sainsbury's, Taste the Difference Grillo, Sicilia, Sicily, Italy 2025 | *Gold, 95 points*

Asda

- Asda, Exceptional Noble Riesling, Canterbury, New Zealand 2017 | *Top Value Gold, 96 points*
- Asda, Exceptional Mas Miralda Brut, Cava, Spain 2023 | *Gold, 95 points*
- Asda, Exceptional Cabernet Sauvignon, Margaret River, Western Australia, Australia 2023 | *Gold, 95 points*
- Asda, Exceptional, Barbera d'Asti Superiore, Piedmont, Italy 2022 | *Gold, 95 points*

- Asda, Exceptional, Asti, Piedmont, Italy NV | *Gold, 95 points*
- Asda, Exceptional, Pouilly-Fumé, Loire, France 2025 | *Gold, 95 points*
- Asda, Exceptional Zinfandel, Lodi, California, United States 2024 | *Gold, 95 points*
- Navigator, Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, California, United States 2023 | *Gold, 95 points*

Waitrose

- Waitrose No.1, In Partnership with Zuccardi Malbec, Uco Valley, Mendoza, Argentina 2022 | *Gold, 95 points*

Marks & Spencer

- Marks & Spencer, Found Kratosija, Tikvesh, Povardarje, North Macedonia 2024 | *Top Value Gold, 95 points*
- Marks & Spencer, Delacourt Blanc de Blancs Brut, Champagne, France 2017 | *Platinum, 97 points*
- Marks & Spencer, Collection Peironte, Barolo, Piedmont, Italy 2021 | *Platinum, 97 points*
- Marks & Spencer, Yarri-Karri Cabernet Sauvignon, Margaret River, Western Australia, Australia 2023 | *Gold, 95 points*
- Marks & Spencer, Collection, Côtes de Provence Sainte Victoire, Provence, France 2025 | *Gold, 95 points*

DWWA Co-Chair, Ronan Sayburn MS, commented, 'The results of Decanter World Wine Awards are valuable because they provide both consumers and producers with a trusted and easily recognisable guide to quality in a crowded global wine market. With so many choices available, consumers often look for reassurance when selecting a bottle, and the DWWA medals help simplify the decision.'

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

ENDS

Notes to editors

The UK was awarded a total of 217 medals comprising 1 Best in Show, 2 Platinum, 10 Gold, 90 Silver and 114 Bronze medals.

The following wines won UK's Best in Show and Platinum medals:

- Balfour, Blanc De Blancs, Kent 2018 | *Best in Show, 97 points*
- Tidebrook, Staddle Stone Chardonnay, Sussex 2023 | *Platinum, 97 points*
- Winding Wood, Rosé Brut, Berkshire 2022 | *Platinum, 97 points*

For press enquiries and interviews with the judges, contact:

Samantha@pantheracommunications.com

Thomas@pantheracommunications.com

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.