

USA CELEBRATE RECORD-BREAKING YEAR AT DECANTER WORLD WINE AWARDS 2026

The US posts its strongest-ever performance, while Texas earns its first ever Gold medals

June 17: The USA delivered its best-ever performance at the Decanter World Wine Awards 2026 (DWWA), winning a record number of top-tier medals and marking several milestones for emerging wine regions across the country.

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.

US wines collected two Best in Show, five Platinum and 32 Gold medals (including one in the Top 35 Value Golds list) – the highest top-tier medal haul the country has achieved at the competition. In total, the US won 466 medals, nearly double its previous highest tally.

While California, Oregon and Washington continued to dominate, emerging regions also impressed, with Texas securing its first-ever Gold medals and further success for Virginia and Pennsylvania. Silver medals were also awarded to producers in Massachusetts, Missouri, Colorado and North Carolina.

Regional Chair for the USA and Central America, James Tidwell MS, commented: 'This year's judging demonstrated the overall high quality coming from the US giving it a well-earned place in the global wine pantheon.'

Producer **Clos du Val** earned a Best in Show medal for the third consecutive year, this time for **Yettalil, Stags Leap District, California 2023**.

California led the country's Platinum medal success, with three in total. Among them was **AvinoDos, Blanc De Blanc Extra Brut, Los Carneros 2022** – only the second US sparkling wine ever to receive Platinum at DWWA. New producer **Brashley** also impressed with **Hacienda Sequoia Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley 2023**.

The state collected 13 Gold medals, including four Value Golds. Two wines received 96 points: **Marimar Estate, La Masía Don Miguel Vineyard Chardonnay, Russian River Valley 2024** and **Nichelini, Petite Sirah, Napa Valley 2023**.

The state also secured the country's only Top Value Gold with rosé wine **Angels & Cowboys, Sonoma County 2025**.

The **Cienega Valley AVA**, in western San Benito County within the Central Coast, celebrated its first-ever Gold medals with **Eden Rift, Terraces Chardonnay 2023** and **Eden Rift, Lansdale Slope Pinot Noir 2023**.

Paso Robles returned to the top tier for the first time since 2022 with **Mina Mesa, Zinfandel 2024** winning Gold.

Oregon secured the USA's second Best in Show medal for **Domaine Serene, Aspect, Dundee Hills 2023**. The state also won a Platinum for **Alexana, Estate Pinot Noir, Dundee Hills 2023**.

The state also collected four Gold medals, including **bhn, Riesling 2023** — the first **orange** wine from the state to receive Gold at DWWA.

Washington State earned a Platinum for **Echolands, Blue Mountain Vineyard Cabernet Franc, Walla Walla Valley 2023**, following the producer's Platinum success in 2025 for the 2022 vintage.

It also recorded its **strongest-ever Gold medal** performance. While most of the winners were red wines, **Echolands' Frenchman Hills Vineyard Block 1 Riesling, Royal Slope 2024** achieved 96 points and became the first Gold medal winner from Royal Slope. **Up West, Syrah 2023** also secured a first Gold for the **Wahlake Slope** sub-region.

Tidwell MS commented: 'Washington State continued to have a strong showing with their characteristic powerful styles of wine.'

Texas celebrated a landmark year with its **first-ever Gold medals**, highlighting the growing diversity of varieties produced with varietal Sousão, Tannat and Tempranillo. Winning wines included three wines from Texas Hill Country **AB Astris, Souzao 2022**; **Turtle Creek, Tannat 2023** and **Adega Vinho, Estate Tempranillo 2021**. The final Gold was awarded to **Spicewood Vineyards, Las Montañas 2022**.

Tidwell MS commented: 'Texas exceeded expectations. The most impressive new development was with Texas which had a strong presence with entries. These entries were of consistently high quality, several of them reaching Gold medal status but dozens of others receiving silver and

bronze medals. The Iberian, Italian, and Mediterranean varieties were particularly successful.'

Virginia continued its strong run after Gold medals in both 2024 and 2025, adding five more Golds this year: **Chestnut Oak Vineyard, Chestnut One, Monticello 2023; Early Mountain Vineyards, Quaker Run Cabernet Franc 2022; King Family, Viognier, Monticello 2024; Pollak Vineyards, Smuggler, Monticello 2022** and **Veritas, Cabernet Franc, Monticello 2024**.

Pennsylvania also maintained its momentum, following Gold medals in 2024 and 2025 with another Gold for **Benigna's Creek, Chambourcin 2024**.

Celebrating the diversity of wine making in the country, other states awarded highly valued Silver medals included **Massachusetts, Missouri, Colorado** and **North Carolina**.

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.

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Notes to editors

USA was awarded a total of 466 medals comprising 2 Best in Show, 5 Platinum, 32 Gold, 239 Silver and 188 Bronze medals.

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

- Clos du Val, Yettalil, Stags Leap District, California 2023 | *Best in Show, 97 points*
- Domaine Serene, Aspect, Dundee Hills, Oregon 2023 | *Best in Show, 97 points*
- Alexana, Estate Pinot Noir, Dundee Hills, Oregon 2023 | *Platinum, 97 points*
- AvinoDos, Blanc De Blanc Extra Brut, Los Carneros, California 2022 | *Platinum, 97 points*
- Brashley, Hacienda Sequoia Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley, California 2023 | *Platinum, 97 points*

- Clos du Val, Estate Sauvignon Blanc, Yountville, California 2024 | *Platinum, 97 points*
- Echolands, Blue Mountain Vineyard Cabernet Franc, Walla Walla Valley 2023 | *Platinum, 97 point*

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.