

SPAIN CELEBRATES A RECORD-BREAKING YEAR AT DECANTER WORLD WINE AWARDS 2026

Spain records its best-ever performance for top-tier medals

17 June: The Decanter World Wine Awards 2026 (DWWA) results have revealed an exceptional year for Spain, with the country securing its greatest-ever haul of top-tier medals.

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.

Spain delivered a record-breaking performance, earning five Best in Show, 27 Platinum and 128 Gold medals, including eight Top Value Gold awards, representing a remarkable 52% increase in top-tier medals compared to last year and its best-ever for top-tier medals in the competition.

Spain's five Best in Show medals showcased the country's remarkable diversity of styles, from age-worthy fortified wines to elegant whites and powerful reds.

Ribera del Duero continued its success in the competition with a Best in Show for the third consecutive year for **Condado de Haza, Reserva 2021**, five Platinum medals and 22 Gold medals, including one of the 35 Top Value Golds (awarded to quality wines under £15 a bottle at the time of judging). Almost all the region's top-performing wines were reds, with the exception of **Virtus, Albillo Mayor, Gran Reserva 2020** – a 100% Albillo Mayor wine that received Platinum.

Sherry maintained its consistently outstanding performance securing three Best in Show, three Platinum and nine Gold medals overall.

Two of the Best in Show medals were awarded to Amontillado Sherries, including the 98-point **Bodegas Tradición, VORS 30 Years, Amontillado NV**. The third Best in Show medal went to **Valdespino, Inocente, Fino NV** – only the second Fino Sherry ever to receive the competition's top award, following the first in 2017.

Rueda, secured two Platinum medals, including one for a fortified wine, **Bodegas de Alberto, Dorado NV**, and three Gold medals.

Rías Baixas celebrated its first Best in Show medal since 2023 with **Pazo Señorans, Selección de Añada Albariño 2015**. This is the fifth appearance of a Rías Baixas Albariño in the Best in Show selection, demonstrating the local traditions for lees ageing followed by bottle ageing. The region also secured one Platinum medal and 13 Gold medals, reinforcing its reputation for premium Albariño wines with ageing potential.

Rioja once again demonstrated its strength on the international stage, collecting eight Platinum and 24 Gold medals, including one Top Value Gold.

Producer **Viña Salceda** accounted for two of the Platinum medals, including the region's only white Platinum wine – a blend of Viura, Tempranillo Blanco, Alarije and Calagraño.

Rioja also secured a Gold medal for a wine aged with biological ageing, for **Bodegas de Familia Burgo Viejo, Tambarria Bajo Velo de Flor NV**.

Castilla-La Mancha achieved a major milestone with its first-ever Platinum medal, awarded to two wines; **Dehesa Del Carrizal, Petit Verdot 2023** and **Pago Finca Élez, Las Teselas De Élez 2023**.

Castilla y León enjoyed another standout year with a Platinum for **Abadia Retuerta, Cuvée Palomar 2022** a red blend of Garnacha, Graciano, Tempranillo and Malbec and two Gold medals for two varietal 100% Prieto Picudo wines.

Bierzo claimed a Platinum medal for **Cuatro Pasos, Black Mencía 2021**, made entirely from Mencía.

Further reinforcing the region's reputation for concentrated, age-worthy reds, **Priorat** enjoyed another strong year, claiming two Platinum medals. A total of 3 Gold medals were awarded, two red and one white for **Mas Doix, Salix 2024**.

Jumilla received its first Platinum medal since 2023 for **Bodegas Luzón, Por Tí Monastrell-Cabernet Sauvignon 2022**. The region also secured four Gold medals, including one Top Value Gold award.

Cava continued to perform strongly, earning eight Gold medals, including a Top Value Gold award for **Jaume Serra, Brut Nature, Guarda 2022**. The competition also recognised two magnum-format Cavas with Silver medals.

Calatayud continued its recent success with two Gold medals, both at the Value category (under £15).

Valdejalón achieved a historic breakthrough with its first-ever Gold medal awarded to **Vinos López, El Ventilador Garnacha 2024**.

Almansa celebrated its first Gold medal since 2021 for **Bodegas Piqueras, Nature Syrah 2025**.

Meanwhile, **Castelló** achieved its first-ever Silver medal at DWWA with **Cooperativa de Viver, Odisea 2024**.

From the islands, **Mallorca** secured two Gold medals for wines made entirely from the indigenous Callet grape variety.

The 2026 results once again highlighted the country's extraordinary diversity of wine styles, regions and indigenous grape varieties – from world-class fortified wines and iconic reds to traditional method sparkling wines and emerging regional successes.

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

Spain was awarded a total of 1,952 medals comprising 5 Best in Show, 27 Platinum, 128 Gold, 894 Silver and 898 Bronze medals.

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

- Bodegas Tradicion, VORS 30 Years, Amontillado, Sherry NV | *98 points*
- Condado de Haza, Reserva, Ribera del Duero 2021 | *97 points*
- Lustau, Almacenista Antonio Caballero y Sobrinos, Amontillado, Sherry NV | *97 points*
- Pazo Señorans, Selección De Añada Albariño, Rías Baixas 2015 | *97 points*
- Valdespino, Inocente, Fino, Sherry NV | *97 points*

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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.