

RESULTS FROM DECANTER WORLD WINE AWARDS 2026 ANNOUNCED

The results from the world's largest wine competition highlight record-breaking achievements, emerging trends and global firsts

June 17: Results from Decanter World Wine Awards 2026 (DWWA) reveal a landmark year for many nations, with several countries recording their strongest-ever performances and numerous regions earning medals for the first time.

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.

Argentina, Brazil, France, Spain, the UK and the USA all achieved their best results in the competition's history, while British producers led the world in medals for sparkling wines in magnum format. The growing magnum category also saw medals awarded to seven different countries. Across the competition, indigenous grape varieties and traditional wine styles continued to gain recognition.

Best performing countries

France delivered the strongest overall performance, achieving its highest-ever tally of top-tier medals: 16 Best in Show, 42 Platinum and 196 Gold medals. In total, the country secured 254 top-tier awards – its best result since the competition began. The competition's only **Value Platinum** medal, awarded to exceptional wine under £15, was awarded to France.

Burgundy emerged as the standout region globally for Best in Show medals, winning more of the competition's highest accolade than any other wine region and recording its strongest performance to date. European countries performed well at the awards.

Italy ranked second overall, securing 144 top-tier medals, including six Best in Show and 29 Platinum awards.

It was an exceptional year for **UK** wine, with British producers leading the world in medals for sparkling magnums and making this the country's strongest showing to date, for top-tier medals and overall medal haul.

There was also a first time Platinum for **Berkshire** and first time Gold for **Oxfordshire**.

Spain secured its greatest-ever haul of top-tier medals, earning five Best in Show, 27 Platinum and 128 Gold medals, including eight Top Value Gold awards. 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.

Germany nearly doubled its number of top-tier medals compared with last year and achieved its highest overall medal tally in recent years.

Portugal secured 66 top-tier medals, comprising three Best in Show, six Platinum and 57 Gold medals, including six Top Value Gold awards.

Romania increased its medal count to 112, up from 105 last year. **Serbia** enjoyed an outstanding year, winning three Platinum medals – its first since 2020 – alongside seven Golds. **Slovenia** earned two Platinum medals, including one for a 33-year-old sweet wine.

Austria had an exceptional year with two Best in Show, eight Platinum and 15 Gold medals, making this the country's best performing year to date.

Switzerland celebrated one Best in Show medal, two Platinum medals and matched its previously best Gold-medal performance with eight awards. **Turkey** secured four Gold medals, including its first-ever Gold for a Sauvignon Blanc. **Bosnia and Herzegovina** recorded its strongest Gold-medal performance to date with five winners.

Croatia enjoyed an excellent year with 40 top-tier medals, while **Cyprus** celebrated two Gold-medal winners. The **Czech Republic** earned its first Platinum medal since 2020, alongside six Gold medals.

Georgia received two Platinum, eight Gold, 56 Silver and 63 Bronze medals.

Greece secured 14 top-tier medals, including two Best in Show, one Platinum and 11 Gold medals. **Hungary** recorded an exceptional performance with one Best in Show, eight Platinum and 15 Gold medals, including one Top Value Gold award.

Australia continued its impressive run securing 85 top-tier medals across the competition – its second-highest haul of top tier medals. It collected five Best in Show medals, 19 Platinum medals and 61 Gold medals, including one Top Value Gold recognising exceptional wines priced under £15. South Australia led the medal haul, with a Best in Show award for **Pewsey Vale, Estate Riesling, Eden Valley 2025**. The state also secured nine Platinum medals.

New Zealand increased its top-tier medals by eight, compared to last year. There were two Best in Show, eight Platinum and 24 Golds – including a

Top Value Gold. **Marlborough** was the top scoring region in terms of total number of top scoring wines – it secured a Best in Show, a Platinum and eight Gold medals. **Canterbury won its first ever Platinum**. There was also a first time Platinum for **Waitaki Valley**.

Central and South America

Argentina, secured its greatest-ever haul of top-tier medals with a total of 61 top-scoring wines, comprising one Best in Show, eight Platinum and 52 Gold medals, including one Top Value Gold. **Mendoza** led the way among Argentina's wine regions, earning the country's only Best in Show medal. The region also secured all eight of Argentina's Platinum medals.

Brazil enjoyed a record-breaking year, with the country securing its highest-ever number of Gold and Silver medals, winning four Gold, 88 Silver and 133 Bronze medals. Prior to 2026, the country's highest number of Gold medals in a single year was two.

Bolivia won its first medal since 2022, celebrating one Silver and four Bronze.

Chile secured 20 top-tier medals overall, with all awarded to red wines except for two whites: a 100% Sauvignon Blanc and a 100% Riesling.

Mexico won Gold for a third year running, it also picked up 10 Silver and 21 Bronze.

Uruguay won 16 medals, including the **first Platinum since 2020** for *Bodega Garzón, Petit Clos Tannat, Maldonado 2023*, 100% Tannat. It also received one Gold and four Silvers.

The **USA** delivered its best-ever performance with 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.

Canada won 15 top medals – two Platinites, both for sweet wines from Ontario-Niagara Peninsula – *Peller Estates, Icewine Vidal 2024* and *Pillitteri, Commendatore Reserve Sparkling Icewine Vidal 2024*. There were 13 Golds including two first Golds since 2023 for Ontario-Prince Edward County awarded to 100% Chardonnay wines.

Japan won five Gold winners including a **first ever Gold winner from Hiroshima, Chugoku.**

China continues its strong performance in the competition with two Platinum, 11 Gold, 100 Silver and 101 Bronze medals.

South Africa recorded one Best in Show, eight Platinum and 36 Golds, including one Top Value Gold, awarded to an exceptional wine priced under £15. **Stellenbosch** was the best-performing region overall, receiving the highest number of medals and the greatest number in the top-tier category.

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

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Decanter World Wine Awards Co-Chairs and key spokespeople are available for interviews. Please use the contact details below to arrange.

For press enquiries and interviews with the judges, contact:

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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.