

ITALY CELEBRATES ANOTHER STRONG YEAR AT DECANTER WORLD WINE AWARDS 2026

The country continues to showcase exceptional diversity, quality and value with outstanding top-tier medal success

17 June: Italy has continued its impressive run at Decanter World Wine Awards 2026 (DWWA), securing 144 top-tier medals across the competition.

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.

Italy ranked the second most successful country for overall medal haul. It earned an impressive 2,074, earning six Best in Show and 29 Platinum medals, including a Value Platinum, which is awarded to wines of exceptional value under £15. Only one Value Platinum was awarded across the entire competition.

The country secured 109 Gold medals, including 17 Value Golds, two of which made it to the coveted Top 35 Value Golds list, once again highlighting Italy's outstanding value across multiple styles and regions.

Tuscany once again proved one of Italy's strongest-performing regions, earning two Best in Show medals, both for 2021 Sangiovese-dominant wines. The region also collected eight Platinum medals – the second-highest total in the country – alongside an impressive 24 Gold medals, primarily for classic Tuscan reds with a handful of standout whites.

The region also featured among the Top Value Gold medal winners with **Melini, Tesco finest*, Chianti Classico Riserva 2021**, praised by judges for its 'capacious red plum, sour cherry and dried floral notes'.

Piedmont enjoyed another exceptional year with two Best in Show medals, including one for Barolo and another for a Barbera from Nizza – notably the first Barbera ever to receive the competition's top award.

The region added four Platinum medals, including another standout Nizza Barbera, and 23 Golds. Alongside classic Barolo, Barbaresco and Barbera styles, awards also went to **Hic Et Nunc, Altromondo, Grignolino del Monferrato Casalese 2024** – only the second-ever Gold for the variety – and Asti sparkling wines.

Piedmont also performed strongly in the value categories, with Value Gold for Barbera d'Asti Superiore, Asti NV and sweet Moscato d'Asti.

Trentino-Alto Adige emerged as Italy's leading region for Platinum medals with nine medals. All were awarded to white wines, with producer **Cantina Terlano** alone receiving four.

The region also celebrated a first-ever Platinum for **Cantina Valle Isarco, Aristos Kerner, Alto Adige Valle Isarco 2024** in the mountainous Valle Isarco sub-region.

Its success continued with 17 Gold medals awarded across a wide range of styles, including aromatic whites as well as reds made from Pinot Noir and Schiava.

Sicily continued its success with a Best in Show medal awarded to **Nicosia, Hýbla Biologico, Cerasuolo di Vittoria 2023**, only the second red wine from the island ever to achieve the accolade. The region also secured 10 Gold medals, including three Value Golds.

Lombardy returned to the top tier after a seven-year absence with a Best in Show medal for **Freccianera, Satèn Brut, Franciacorta 2022**. The producer impressed and also secured two of the region's three Gold medals.

Veneto showcased its diversity with three Platinum medals spanning a broad range of styles: the 100% Turbiana **Corte Sermana, Lugana Riserva 2021**, a Prosecco di Conegliano Valdobbiadene Superiore Rive 2024 from producer **Il Colle 1978**, and an Amarone della Valpolicella Classico Riserva – **Villabella Fracastoro 2015**.

The region also earned seven Gold medals across different styles including whites from 100% Vespaiola, Prosecco, Amarone and sparkling wines from Lessini Durello – the latter receiving its first-ever Gold medal after previously winning Platinum in 2017.

Friuli-Venezia Giulia collected two Platinum medals, both for white wines, continuing the region's reputation for premium white winemaking.

Abruzzo achieved a milestone with a Platinum medal for **Cascina del Colle, Aimè, Abruzzo Pecorino Superiore 2025**, the first 100% Pecorino Platinum awarded from this region. The region also received two Gold medals including a Top Value Gold medal for **Citra, Niro, Montepulciano d'Abruzzo 2022**, praised for its 'deep complexity'.

Liguria celebrated its first-ever Platinum medal for a rosé, **Lunae, Mea Rosa, Liguria di Levante 2025**.

Tiny **Molise** achieved a breakthrough result with its first-ever Platinum medal awarded to **Tenimenti Grieco, Passo Alle Tremeiti Falanghina 2025**. The achievement marks a major moment for a region that has historically had very limited representation at the competition.

Campania secured two Gold medals, including one for a white wine from the small island of Ischia.

Le Marche collected five Gold medals, four of which were awarded to wines made from Verdicchio, reinforcing the region's strength with the variety.

Emilia-Romagna earned two Gold medals for a sweet white wine and a sparkling Lambrusco red.

Lazio received a Gold medal for **Casale del Giglio, Viognier 2025**, marking a first for the international variety in the region.

Puglia collected two Gold medals for a Primitivo red and an orange wine, **Simone Santoro, Noscia Francavilla 2025**, made using the local Francavidda grape.

Sardinia achieved five Gold medals for both reds and whites.

Beyond the top medal categories, Italy's depth and diversity continued to shine. **Umbria, Valle d'Aosta, Calabria** and **Basilicata** were awarded Silver medals, contributing to a total of 24 Silver medals in these regions.

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

Italy was awarded a total of 2,074 medals, comprising 6 Best in Show, 29 Platinum, 109 Gold, 870 Silver and 1,060 Bronze medals.

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

- Capezzana, Trefiano, Carmignano Rosso Riserva, Tuscany 2021

- Coppo, Pomorosso, Nizza, Piedmont 2022
- Freccianera, Satèn Brut, Franciacorta, Lombardy 2022
- G.D. Vajra, Luigi Baudana Baudana, Barolo, Piedmont 2022
- Icaro, Vino Nobile di Montepulciano, Tuscany 2021
- Nicosia, Hýbla Biologico, Cerasuolo di Vittoria, Sicily 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.