

SOUTH AFRICA CELEBRATE STRONG YEAR AT DECANTER WORLD WINE AWARDS

South Africa enjoys success with an impressive haul of top-tier medals

17 June: The Decanter World Wine Awards 2026 (DWWA) results have highlighted an outstanding year for South Africa, with the country earning a Best in Show alongside multiple Platinum and Gold 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.

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. The region claimed South Africa's Best in Show for **Stellenbosch Reserve, Hangbrug Chenin Blanc 2025**, as well as three Platinum medals for red wines.

It also took home 19 Golds, including one in the Top Value list - **Spier, Villa Blue Albariño, Stellenbosch 2025**.

Swartland received its first Platinum medals since 2022 for **Du Toitskloof, Granite Pinotage 2024** and **Nederburg, Heritage Heroes the Anchor Man Old Vine Chenin Blanc 2024**. The region also collected three Golds including two for producer **Kasteelberg**.

Elgin was awarded a Platinum medal for **Lothian of Elgin, Chardonnay 2023**, alongside one Gold and four high-scoring 94-point Silver medals shy of Gold.

The **Coastal Region** claimed their first Platinum since 2023 for a GSM blend - **Perdeberg Cellar, The Dry Land Collection Joseph's Legacy Shiraz-Grenache-Mourvèdre 2024**, plus 29 Silver medals including one high-scoring 94 points wine.

Cape Town received a Platinum for **Steenberg, Merlot, Constantia 2022** and one Gold.

Elim in Cape Agulhas received a first Gold since 2021 for a 100% Sauvignon Blanc - **Ghost Corner, Wild Ferment Sauvignon Blanc, Cape Agulhas 2025**.

Franschoek received four Golds, two of which were awarded to producer **Mont Rochelle**.

Worcester claimed a Gold for the second consecutive year with the same producer – **Alvi's Drift, Albertus Viljoen Chenin Blanc, Scherpenheuvel 2024**.

For the second consecutive year producer **Boschendal** received a Gold medal for its **Vin D'Or Noble Late Harvest** this time for 2024 vintage. It also picked up a Platinum for **Auré, Stellenbosch 2022**.

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

South Africa was awarded a total of 514 medals comprising 1 Best in Show, 8 Platinum, 36 Gold, 248 Silver and 221 Bronze medals.

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

- Stellenbosch Reserve, Hangbrug Chenin Blanc, Stellenbosch 2025 | *Best in Show, 97 points*
- Backsberg, Patriarch Cabernet Franc, Stellenbosch 2023 | *Platinum, 97 points*
- Boschendal, Auré, Stellenbosch 2022 | *Platinum, 97 points*
- Du Toitskloof, Granite Pinotage, Swartland 2024 | *Platinum, 97 points*
- Hartenberg, The Mackenzie, Stellenbosch 2022 | *Platinum, 97 points*
- Lothian of Elgin, Chardonnay, Elgin 2023 | *Platinum, 97 points*
- Nederburg, Heritage Heroes the Anchor Man Old Vine Chenin Blanc, Swartland 2024 | *Platinum, 97 points*

- Perdeberg Cellar, The Dry Land Collection Joseph's Legacy Shiraz-Grenache-Mourvèdre, Coastal Region 2024 | *Platinum, 97 points*
- Steenberg, Merlot, Constantia, Cape Town 2022 | *Platinum, 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.