



PHIPPS

## International Wine Challenge 2019

### *Highlights*

After two weeks of rigorous blind-tasting of wines from over 40 countries, by a panel of 400 international wine experts from 38 countries, the results are now in for the International Wine Challenge (IWC) 2019.

#### *Cool climate wines on the hot list*

Climate change is dramatically changing traditional grape growing areas across the globe and cool climate regions have begun to produce iconic – and award-winning – wines from grapes that previously could only be cultivated in warmer grape growing regions.

As summers, such as the record-breaking 2018 summer, get hotter and drier, English winemakers are making the most of this climatic shift and this year, England continued to impress with both its sparkling and still wines. English winemakers were awarded a total of 11 Gold, 50 Silver and 60 Bronze medals with Sussex leading the way with a total of seven of the 11 of the Golds.

The situation is the same on the other side of the planet, as cool climate regions in Australia such as Adelaide Hills, Victoria and Tasmania were awarded 20% of Australia's Gold medals.

One of the highest scoring wines in the entire competition was a wine from Tasmania – an island once considered far too cold to grow vines. The **Tolpuddle Vineyard Chardonnay 2017** received an impressive 97 points from the judges – one of the highest scores in the competition.

Even further south, New Zealand is looking beyond Pinot Noir, as cool climate Shiraz (also known as Syrah) is once again achieving astonishing levels of quality. Hawke's Bay took home 3 Gold medals for Syrahs from Te Awanga Estate, Vidal and Trinity Hill.

#### *Volcanic Italy rivals Southern France for Rosé crown*

Provence may be the most famous rosé region in the world, but a Sicilian pink made from Nerello Mascalese grapes from Etna scored higher than any other still rosé in the competition. Etna is increasingly being seen as one of the new, exciting wine regions in Italy, in particular for its reds and it was a volcanic rosé that impressed the judges the most in this year's tasting, with **Torre Mora's Scalunera Etna Rosato 2018** scoring 96 points and earning a Gold medal.

The only other rosé to win Gold was Waitrose's own-brand Côtes de Provence, with 95/100.

#### *A Golden first for Moldova and Czech Republic*

Moldova and the Czech Republic received their first ever Gold medals at the International Wine Challenge 2019.

Moldova is celebrating its first IWC Gold medal this year, as winery Vinaria Tiganca brought home a Gold medal for its Riesling. The **Manastirea Rorbach Cru 2016** was one of only 20 Rieslings to receive a Gold medal in the entire competition, beating well-established Riesling producers from France, Germany and Australia. Meanwhile the Czech Republic celebrated its Gold debut in the IWC with two Gold medals for wines from Zamecke Vinarstvi Bzenec and Znovín Znojmo.

#### NOTES TO EDITORS:

For full results and further information, please contact [beth.terry@thisisphipps.com](mailto:beth.terry@thisisphipps.com)

#### The International Wine Challenge

In its 36<sup>th</sup> year, the International Wine Challenge (IWC) is accepted as the world's finest and most meticulously judged competition. The IWC assesses every wine 'blind' and judges each for its faithfulness to style, region and vintage. Each medal-winning wine is tasted on at least three separate occasions by a minimum of 12 different judges including Masters of Wine. Awards include medals (Gold, Silver, Bronze) and Commended awards. The IWC is committed to helping consumers discover great wine, and the medals displayed on winning bottles offer a trusted guarantee of quality.

For more information on the IWC and full results, please contact the IWC team at Phipps [iwc@thisisphipps.com](mailto:iwc@thisisphipps.com) : +44 (0) 20 7759 7400 : 17 Exeter Street, London, WC2E 7DU, UK