



PHIPPS

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English Red wins first ever Gold Medal at the International Wine Challenge

England has now proved its worth when it comes to red wine with a Gold medal for Kent's Hush Heath for The Red Miller 2018, made with 100% Pinot Meunier, a grape rarely seen as a key component in still red.

Owen Elias, a consultant at Hush Heath, skilfully created The Red Miller 2018 from a single plot of exceptionally ripe Pinot Meunier. Thanks to the textbook summer in terms of growing conditions, this grape, usually the 'quiet partner' in a classic sparkling blend, reached its full potential to create a 'supremely elegant' wine that charmed the judges. Elias says; *'Pinot Meunier is rarely seen as a still red anywhere in the world. Here we have a delicate and aromatic wine which will be extremely interesting as it develops over the next two years.'* The Red Miller is available from the Hush Heath website or Harvey Nichols at £40 a bottle with 5,000 bottles available at the vineyard.

Two English sparkling wines also gained Gold medals, coming just behind France which received three. Hampshire's **Hattingley Valley** received a Gold medal for the **Hattingley Valley Rosé 2015** and Sussex's **Oxney Organic Estate** was awarded Gold for their **Oxney Classic 2016**.

England came in third overall in the medals table for sparkling wine, achieving 26 medals, placing behind esteemed sparkling wine nations France and Italy. In total, England won 47 medals.

"We're thrilled to be able to award England its first International Wine Challenge Gold medal for a red wine. England has been gaining attention for its sparkling wines for some time, so it's great to see a broader range of wines on the radar. Kent in particular led the way with its still wines, while Hampshire and Sussex carried the torch for the sparkling wines. But it's still early days for the UK wine industry, and we're excited about watching the continued progress of our wine industry" *explained Competition Director Chris Ashton.*

Sussex, Kent and Hampshire shine bright

Of the total 47 medals England won, Sussex, Kent and Hampshire were the top performing regions.

Sussex

Sussex led the way with 13 medals: one Gold, six Silvers, five Bronzes and one Commended. Three of these Silver medals went to **Bolney Wine Estate**, two of which were for its still wines, the **Bacchus 2018** and **Pinot Noir 2018**. Another medal-winning still Pinot Noir came from **Hoffman & Rathbone** who received a Bronze medal for its **Pinot Noir NV**.

Hampshire

Hampshire maintained its reputation for quality sparkling wine, achieving seven medals, one Gold, four Silvers and two Bronzes. **Grange Estate Wines** picked up two Silvers for its **Classic NV** and **Pink NV** sparkling wine.

Kent

Kent scooped up 9 medals in total, 6 of which were for still wines. Of Kent's four Silver medals, **Simpsons Wine Estate** was awarded three, one each for its sparkling, white and red wine.

"England is now a really serious wine country, with tremendous sparkling wines and increasingly good whites. And with judges from all over the world assessing the wines, these results show that English wines are competing brilliantly on a truly international scale", commented International Wine Challenge Co-Chair *Charles Metcalfe*.

For full list of English winners, see notes to editors below (gold medals are highlighted).

For more information on the International Wine Challenge, please contact the team at Phipps

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

The International Wine Challenge

In its 37th year, the International Wine Challenge is accepted as the world's most rigorous, impartial and influential wine competition. The International Wine Challenge 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 International Wine Challenge is committed to helping consumers discover great wine, and the medals displayed on winning bottles offer a trusted guarantee of quality. The International Wine Challenge is committed to helping consumers discover

great wine, and the medals displayed on winning bottles and in winning shops offer a trusted guarantee of quality.

International Wine Challenge 2020 Results: England

Region	Producer Name	Wine Name	Vintage	Colour	Style	Medal
Berkshire	Direct Wines Production	Windsor Great Park Sparkling	2015	White	Sparkling	Silver
Cornwall	Camel Valley	Camel Valley Pinot Noir Rosé Brut	2016	Rosé	Sparkling	Bronze
Devon	Lyme Bay Winery	Exquisite Collection Lyme Block	2018	White	Still	Silver
Devon	Lyme Bay Winery	Morrisons The Best English Dry White	2018	White	Still	Bronze
Dorset	Furleigh Estate	Classic Cuvée Brut	2014	White	Sparkling	Silver
Dorset	Furleigh Estate	Bacchus Fumé	NV	White	Still	Silver
East Anglia	Flint Vineyard	Blanc de Noirs	2016	White	Sparkling	Silver
East Anglia	Flint Vineyard	Charmat Rosé	2018	Rosé	Sparkling	Bronze
East Anglia	West Street Vineyard	West Street Vineyard	2018	White	Still	Commended
Gloucestershire	Hayloft Ventures	Angel & Four Masterstroke Brut English Sparkling Wine	NV	White	Sparkling	Bronze
Gloucestershire	Poulton Hill Vineyard	Arlington Red	NV	Red	Still	Commended
Hampshire	Hattingley Valley Wines	Hattingley Valley Rosé	2015	Rosé	Sparkling	Gold
Hampshire	Grange Estate Wines	The Grange Hampshire - PINK	NV	Rosé	Sparkling	Silver
Hampshire	Grange Estate Wines	The Grange Hampshire - CLASSIC	NV	White	Sparkling	Silver
Hampshire	Raimes English Sparkling	Vintage Rose	2015	Rosé	Sparkling	Silver
Hampshire	Black Chalk	Black Chalk - Classic	2016	White	Sparkling	Silver
Hampshire	Raimes English Sparkling	Classic Brut	2014	White	Sparkling	Bronze
Hampshire	Hambledon Vineyard	Berry Bros. & Rudd English Sparkling Wine Brut	NV	White	Sparkling	Bronze
Kent	Balfour Hush Heath	The Red Miller	2018	Red	Still	Gold
Kent	Simpsons Wine Estate	Chalklands Classic Cuvée	2016	White	Sparkling	Silver
Kent	Simpsons Wine Estate	Rabbit Hole Pinot Noir	2018	Red	Still	Silver
Kent	Simpsons Wine Estate	Derringstone Pinot Meunier	2018	White	Still	Silver
Kent	Chartham Vineyard	Bacchus	2018	White	Still	Silver
Kent	Woodchurch	Woodchurch Classic Cuvée	2015	White	Sparkling	Bronze
Kent	Balfour Hush Heath	This Septered Isle	2018	White	Still	Bronze
Kent	Hush Heath Estate	Tesco Finest English White	2018	White	Still	Bronze
Kent	Hush Heath Estate	Tesco Finest English Sparkling	NV	White	Sparkling	Commended

Oxfordshire	Wyfold Vineyard	Wyfold Vineyard Brut	2014	White	Sparkling	Silver
Oxfordshire	Wyfold Vineyard	Wyfold Vineyard Rosé Brut	2015	Rosé	Sparkling	Bronze
Shropshire	Hencote	Evolution	2018	White	Sparkling	Bronze
Shropshire	Hencote	Solaris	2018	White	Still	Commended
Shropshire	Hencote	Rose	2018	Rosé	Still	Commended
Staffordshire	Buzzard Valley Vineyard	Extrovert	2018	White	Still	Commended
Sussex	Oxney Organic Estate	Classic	2016	White	Sparkling	Gold
Sussex	Hoffmann & Rathbone	Bacchus	2018	White	Still	Bronze
Sussex	Hoffmann & Rathbone	Pinot Noir	NV	Red	Still	Bronze
Sussex	Southern England Wines	Roebuck Estates Classic Cuvee	2014	White	Sparkling	Silver
Sussex	Bluebell Vineyard Estates	Hindleap Rose	2015	Rosé	Sparkling	Silver
Sussex	Bluebell Vineyard Estates	Hindleap Blanc de Blancs	2016	White	Sparkling	Silver
Sussex	Bolney Wine Estate	Bolney Estate Pinot Noir	2018	Red	Still	Silver
Sussex	Bolney Wine Estate	Bolney Estate Bacchus	2018	White	Still	Silver
Sussex	Bolney Wine Estate	Bolney Estate Blanc de Blancs Brut	2016	White	Sparkling	Silver
Sussex	Redfold Vineyards LLP	Ambriel English Reserve	NV	White	Sparkling	Bronze
Sussex	Bluebell Vineyard Estates	Hindleap Barrel Aged Blanc de Blancs	2014	White	Sparkling	Bronze
Sussex	Bluebell Vineyard Estates	Ashdown Rose	2018	Rosé	Still	Bronze
Sussex	Bluebell Vineyard Estates	Ashdown Bacchus	2018	White	Still	Commended
Worcestershire	Astley Vineyard	Bacchus	2018	White	Still	Commended



Look out for the below stickers on wines, for the International Wine Challenge seal of quality:

The first part of the 2020 International Wine Challenge – Tranche 1 – saw over 200 of the world's top wine experts from 23 countries judging the wines over four days in London. Tranche 2 judging will take place from April 14-23, 2020, with the results announced on May 15. Full results of Tranche 1 2020 [here](#) and Medals Summary [here](#).