



The International Wine Challenge 2008 Trophy Winners The most exceptional wines of their type

Last month 267 wines were awarded gold medals. Today, the pre-eminent arbiter of wine quality the International Wine Challenge announces the 90 wines which, after a further rigorous blind tasting, have been elevated from gold medal to trophy status.

Following two weeks of blind tasting to establish the medal rankings, the IWC co-chairmen Tim Atkin MW, Sam Harrop MW, Charles Metcalfe and Derek Smedley MW hosted a separate trophy tasting for their newly appointed panel chairs as well as their senior judges. It was the balance, personality and finesse of these exemplary wines that distinguished them as deserving of an IWC trophy.

A total of 114 trophies were awarded. The majority of wines picked up a single trophy however some extraordinary examples were found to be deserving of a host of awards. Most notably, francophiles will be delighted to hear that a Burgundy has received four trophies whilst on the other side of the earth both the Australians and New Zealanders can rejoice with a Cabernet Sauvignon from Coonawarra and a Pinot Noir from Central Otago also walking away with four trophies a piece:

Majella Cabernet Sauvignon 2005

International Cabernet Sauvignon Trophy, Australian Red Trophy, South Australian Red Trophy & Coonawarra Trophy.

Pouilly - Fuissé Vieilles Vignes, 2006 Maison Auviogue

International Chardonnay Trophy, French White Trophy, White Burgundy Trophy & Pouilly-Fuissé Trophy.

Wild Earth Pinot Noir 2006

International Pinot Noir Trophy, New Zealand Red Trophy, NZ Pinot Noir Trophy & Central Otago Pinot Noir Trophy





France regained the crown for most trophies which Australia had narrowly snatched from it last year whilst Portugal made it to the third place in the trophy stakes for a third year running. Argentina recorded its best record to date with six trophies, beating Chile's very respectable five, amongst them the international trophies for Cabernet Franc and Tannat. Trophy winning wines hailed from 16 different countries. The top five were as follows:

Trophies by country 2008: France (19), Australia (18), Portugal (12), Italy (10), Spain (8) & Japan (8 for Sake).

As usual, the IWC rewarded regional excellence and specificity with trophies for Maipo, Jurançon, Pernand-Vergelesses, Dão and Castilla y León among the regular, more expected winners.

“The judges responded to an even wider range of entries than ever before not only with 35 regional trophies, 26 national trophies, 18 international trophies but also by awarding trophies to all the grapes you can think of – and then some, examples being Aglianico, Fiano and Tannat,” explained IWC co-chairman Charles Metcalfe.

Six exceptional producers produced not one but two trophy winning wines, one picked up three trophies:

Bodegas Y Viñedos Hugo Y Eduardo Pulenta S.a.

Pulenta Gran Cabernet Franc 2005 (International Cabernet Franc Trophy) & Pulenta Gran Malbec 2006 (International Malbec Trophy & Mendoza Trophy).

A Sparkling Virgin Success

Hush Heath's Balfour Brut Rosé won the UK's only gold medal last month. It was also deemed worthy of an English trophy, an incredible achievement for Hotel du Vin owner Richard Balfour's debut vintage from this Kentish vineyard.

The complete list of trophy winning wines follows.

www.internationalwinechallenge.com





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Further information and photography can be obtained by contacting Spoon PR.

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Editors' Notes

1. Results available online at www.internationalwinechallenge.com from 11.00 am on Monday 20 June 2008.

2. What sets the International Wine Challenge apart from other competitions is the number of times wines are tasted to earn their awards. Medal-winning wines must have been tasted at least three times, once in the first week of tasting, again in the second week to confirm the level of medal to be awarded and then again by at least one of the five Co-Chairmen. At every stage, if a Co-Chairman wishes to change a wine's score, he has to seek agreement from one of his colleagues, meaning that a wine may be tasted four times before its award is established.

3. To ensure the highest quality of judging and consistency throughout, 2008 saw the introduction of 20 Panel Chairmen, a core group of tasters, responsible for leading their panel of judges for all 9 days of the competition. The Panel Chairmen are the best of the best. They are Masters of Wine, winemakers and experienced wine writers. They supported the 5 Co-Chairmen - Charles Metcalfe, Derek Smedley MW, Sam Harrop MW, Tim Atkin MW and 2008's International Co-Chairman for 2008, New Zealand's Bob Campbell MW.

4. Via the official website for the competition www.internationalwinechallenge.com everyone can take advantage of the tasting skills of the 400 judges and 5 Co-Chairmen. Judges' comments on each medal winning wine are reproduced to aid selection. UK consumers can also search by their preferred retailer and price.

