

The UK Wine Awards 2017 Results

The best wine produced in England and Wales has been revealed today as the winners of the first UK Wine Awards are announced. [Coates & Seely's La Perfide Blanc de Blancs 2009](#) was awarded **Supreme Champion** sponsored by [Hotel du Vin](#), beating almost 300 other English and Welsh wines to the title.

The Awards received an incredible 293 entries from producers across England and Wales, with 20 gold, 36 silver and 127 bronze medals awarded to winning wines.

Hampshire-based Coates & Seely proved the stand-out producer, taking home four of the eight trophies.

Overall:

- 293 wines were entered
- 62% of these won medals, in keeping with the proportion of well-established international competitions
- Eight wine trophies were awarded
- 20 Gold, 36 Silver and 127 Bronze medals were awarded

What the Awards can tell us about English and Welsh wines:

English Sparkling Wines are particularly successful. Though only 42% of the wines entered were sparkling, 75% of gold medal winners were sparkling wines, as were 67% of the silvers

- Chardonnay is the dominant grape variety in terms of wins, gaining six of the 20 golds and 50 medals overall for still and sparkling wine
- Pinot Noir also proved a successful variety in England and Wales, winning 42 medals overall
- The most popular still variety remains Bacchus, England's third most planted variety (after Chardonnay and Pinot Noir), gaining just under a third of the total medals won by still wines
- Pinot Gris is an emerging variety in England, winning golds for a still and a sparkling
- Medal winners were a mix of established and new producers, showing that even from the first vintage wine, some excellent wines are being produced in the UK
- The same can be said for the number of established producers that are proving time and again that the quality of their wines is consistent
- A wine that has seen more ageing has proven to be the overall winner – this shows the ageing potential in English sparkling wine

Full list of trophy winners:

- **Supreme Champion**, sponsored by Hotel du Vin: [Coates & Seely](#) La Perfide Blanc De Blancs 2009

Judges comment: *"Fabulously elegant and refined with the seductive toasted brioche and honey notes from age."*

- **Best Overall Still Wine**, sponsored by Rankin Brothers & Son: [Bolney Wine Estate](#) Foxhole Vineyard Pinot Gris 2016
Judges comment: *“A delightful example of Pinot Gris; pure, expressive, and fragrant with notes of honeysuckle and spiced pear.”*
- **Best Overall Sparkling Wine**, sponsored by Croxsons: Coates & Seely La Perfide Blanc De Blancs 2009
- **Best Sparkling Blanc de Blancs**, sponsored by Close Bros Brewery Rentals: Coates & Seely La Perfide Blanc de Blancs 2009
- **Best Sparkling Rosé**, sponsored by Tubex: Coates & Seely Rosé 2009
Judges comment: *“From its antique gold colour to its rich sour cherry and truffle flavours, this is a graceful, mature rosé to sip and savour.”*
- **Best Classic Cuvée sparkling wine**, sponsored by Henderson Insurance: [Digby Fine English](#) Brut 2010
Judges comment: *“A great vintage and a seriously classy wine that offers a compelling mouthful of white peach, honey and freshly baked bread.”*
- **Best Still Bacchus**, sponsored by Rankin Brothers & Son: [Lyme Bay](#) Bacchus Block 2015
 - Judges comment: *“Packed with zesty lime, fennel and elderflower flavours, this is English Bacchus at its refreshing best.”*
- **Best Single Varietal Still White**, sponsored by MHA Carpenter Box: Bolney Wine Estate Foxhole Vineyard Pinot Gris 2016

Supporters and sponsors of UK Wine Awards

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About Hotel du Vin

Hotel du Vin is an elegant collection of 17 town house and city centre properties with a particular emphasis on food and beverage. Each boasts its own individuality and personality, resonating from the character of the historic buildings that have been sensitively converted into stylish boutique hotels. The essence of the brand lies in its unyielding commitment to doing the simple things well. A love of wine resonates with substantial wine menu that features many of the world’s best and often relatively unknown wine producers. The substance and style of the bedrooms are completed with attentive touches including Egyptian cotton bedding, monsoon power showers and roll-top baths.

Locations: Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Cheltenham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Harrogate, Henley-on-Thames, Newcastle, Poole, St Andrews, Tunbridge Wells, Wimbledon, Winchester and York

Calum Russell, Director at Hotel du Vin said, “As our name suggests wine is at the heart of what we do. We are passionate about finding the very best wines for our customers to try, and English and Welsh wines are increasingly a key part of that. We’re delighted to be supporting the competition and the UK wine industry.”

www.hotelduvin.com

Follow [@HotelduVinbrand](#) on Twitter

Waitrose

About Waitrose

With a 63% market share of English sparkling wines, Waitrose has been a champion of homegrown wines since the beginning. The national high street chain lists the largest range of English and Welsh wines available in the UK, with over 100 wines from across the country currently available. Waitrose also now produces its own English sparkling wine, Leckford Estate Brut, which is made from grapes grown on their farm in Hampshire.

Rebecca Hull MW, English Wine Buyer at Waitrose and one of the UK Wine Awards judges, commented, “Waitrose have been stalwart supporters of English and Welsh wines for many years now, and we see customer demand for them growing year upon year. These wines are world class and the Awards will certainly serve to highlight some of the gems produced on our own doorstep. We’re really proud of our support of this exciting and growing industry.”

www.waitrose.co.uk www.waitrosecellar.com

Follow @Waitrose on Twitter

COUNTRY LIFE

About Country Life Magazine

Since its launch in 1897, Country Life has been the world’s most celebrated magazine of the British way of life, its countryside, properties and gardens. Its matchless authority, exquisite photography and world-class writing have ensured its position as one of the nation’s truly great magazines. Country Life’s readers have always sought the best things in life from food and antiques to the finest properties and estates to buy.

Country Life’s Editor, Mark Hedges, added, “Country Life champions all things British, including wine. Our readers expect the very best and English wines are now among the finest—it is an honour to be involved.”

www.countrylife.co.uk

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THE JUDGES

<putting the two chairmen centred above their intro, but the others set out as below>



SUSIE BARRIE MW – Chair

Susie is a TV presenter, wine writer, event host and consultants, who together with her husband, Peter Richards MW is renowned for her enthusiastic, thoughtful and articulate style. Susie is a well-known face on Flagship BBC1 show Saturday Kitchen. Together with Peter, Susie has been waving the flag for English and Welsh wines for many years, and were awarded 'EWP Communicator of the Year' in 2015

Follow Susie on [@susiebarrie](#)



OZ CLARKE – Joint Chair

Oz Clarke is one of the world's leading wine experts, whose formidable reputation is based on his extensive wine knowledge and accessible, no-nonsense approach. His passion for the subject dates from his student days at Oxford University, where he won tasting competitions at a precociously early age. Since then his tasting skills have won him an international reputation and he is acknowledged as having one of the finest palates of anyone writing about wine today.

Follow Oz on [@ozclarke](#)

<Suggest that these judges are set out in table format – with photo on left and text + twitter handle on right>

HAMISH ANDERSON



Hamish has been working at the Tate as wine buyer for more than 11 years. Since joining as sommelier in late 1997, he has worked his way up to beverage buyer for the Tate's nine sites, including the Tate Modern, St Ives and Liverpool, and is now an integral part of the business. Hamish is also a regular wine columnist in consumer and trade press, including the Telegraph Saturday magazine.

Follow Hamish on [@hamishdanderson](#)

DAVID BIRD MW



Trained as an analytical chemist, David worked in food analysis with Reckitt & Colman. He joined wine trade in 1973 as Quality Control Manager, moving to Stowells of Chelsea as QA Manager in 1984. He has been involved with wine activities across the world. David has been chairman of the judges of the Mercian Vineyards Association for several years and is part of the team that judges at the UK Vineyards Association and the Decanter World Wine Awards. He is the author of "Understanding Wine Technology", a book that has become essential reading for students who are studying for Diploma and Master of Wine examinations.

RICHARD HEMMING MW



Richard is a wine writer, educator and consultant. Most of his work is published on [JancisRobinson.com](#), where he started back in 2008. Richard also writes a regular wine column for trade publication *Off Licence News* and his articles have also appeared in *Noble Rot*, *The Financial Times*, *Decanter*, *The Drinks Business*, *World of Fine Wine*. Additionally, Richard regularly hosts wine dinners and tutored tastings, as well as teaching masterclasses and [WSET](#) courses for wine professionals and corporate clients.

Follow Richard on [@RichardHemming](#)

BECKY HULL MW



Becky started her career in wine with Oddbins, then moved to the wine buying team at Sainsbury's a year later. Having won the Vintner's Cup for the highest mark of the year in the WSET Diploma, Becky achieved the rare double of scooping the Tim Derouet award for exceptional performance in the Master of Wine exams, which she passed in 1997. She joined Waitrose in 2005, where among other duties, she is now responsible for managing their English & Welsh wine range.

ALEX HUNT MW



has written a regular column for jancisrobinson.com.

Alex joined the wine trade as a van driver for Oddbins while studying at Oxford, where he captained the Varsity Blind Tasting Team. Fresh out of university, he joined London-based wine merchant Mayfair Cellars in 2000, holding both sales and buying roles. In 2006 he moved to Berkmann Wine Cellars, where he is currently Purchasing Director. Alex has contributed articles to Decanter, World of Fine Wine and The Drinks Business, and is a seasoned wine judge, with experience ranging from the Decanter World Wine Awards and International Wine Challenge to South Africa's Old Mutual Trophy Wine Show. Since February 2012, he

Follow Alex on [@AlexHuntMW](https://twitter.com/AlexHuntMW)

ELIZABETH KELLY



Beth is one of the wine buyers at Marks & Spencer who has singularly driven the expansion of the English and Welsh wine range on the shelves of the high street stalwart Marks & Spencer. Last year alone, the M&S English wine range increased from 20 to 37 this year and they have seen an 100% increase in sales of English wine. Beth is currently studying for Master of Wine exams.

Follow Beth on [@ek_winegirl](https://twitter.com/ek_winegirl)

REBECCA PALMER



Rebecca is associate director and wine buyer at Corney & Barrow. Her previous wine trade career saw her working for Laithwaites and Bibendum. Her extensive knowledge of wine buying from around the world, includes England. She is also a judge at other notable wine competitions such as Decanter World Wine Awards.

JANE PARKINSON



Jane is an award-winning UK-based journalist, author and broadcaster who specialises in wine, and wine with food. An extensive writer and contributor to a number of consumer and trade magazines, Jane is also one of the wine experts on BBC1's Saturday Kitchen. She is one of the four members of [The Wine Gang](#) and an ambassador for [London Wine Week](#). Jane's expert journalistic and broadcasting talents earned her the prestigious [International Wine & Spirit Competition Communicator of the Year 2014](#)

Follow Jane on [@jane_parkinson](#)

CHRISTINE PARKINSON



Christine is Head Wine Buyer for the now 12-strong restaurant group, which includes the Michelin-starred restaurants Hakkasan and Yauatcha, with operations in London, Miami and (soon) Abu Dhabi. She has been called "one of the most creative wine buyers in the UK" by wine guru Jancis Robinson, and recently received the 'Taste On-Trade Influencer Award, in association with Imbibe'. When not on the phone to suppliers, she is often out on a motorbike, and is therefore probably responsible for most of the UK's bad weather.

Follow Christine on [@chriswinesake](#)

PHILIP TUCK MW



Philip has been in the wine business for 30 years, starting out in the wine trade in 1986, working with Avery's of Bristol. The drive to pass the MW exams led him to work in a number of wineries in South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Chile, California and Italy, eventually returning to the UK in 1993 to help establish the "New" Hatch Mansfield with Mark Calver and Patrick McGrath MW, where he is currently the Wine Director. Philip passed the MW exam in 1999.

For more information, please contact the Competition Manager, Belinda Mercer on belinda@ukwineawards.co.uk