

10th July 2024



UK Wine Industry Celebrates Unprecedented Success at the International Wine Challenge 2024



International Wine Challenge Supermarket of the Year 2024 winner, Marks & Spencer

10th July 2024 - Last night, the International Wine Challenge (IWC), the world's most influential, impartial and rigorously judged wine competition, brought together the UK wine industry for its annual awards announcement in London. There was much to celebrate this year as businesses of all sizes were recognised in the IWC Industry Awards, while England continued to cement its position as one of the world's leading wine producing countries.

Victory for English wine

England produced another impressive set of results in this year's challenge, winning a total of 125 medals, 13 of which were Gold. **Gusbourne** was the most highly awarded English winery in the competition, taking home a total of eight medals for its red, white and sparkling wines. Gusbourne was also awarded the **English Red Trophy** for its Pinot Noir 2022, the only still wine from England to win a gold medal.

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England came second only to France for its sparkling wines, with 88 medals awarded to English fizz. This year, it was Sussex-based winery **Wiston Estate** that took home the **English Sparkling Trophy** for its Library Collection Blanc de Blancs 2010. Further gold medals were awarded to sparkling wines from Kent, Hampshire, Sussex and the Thames Valley.

English wines judged best in show at the International Wine Challenge 2024:

Wiston Estate Library Collection Blanc de Blancs 2010	Sussex	£130.00 from Wiston Estate
Gusbourne Pinot Noir 2022	Kent	£40.00 from Gusbourne
M&S Collections Hattingley English Sparkling Wine Brut 2018	Hampshire	£30.00 from M&S
The Grange White From Black 2020	Hampshire	£42.00 from The Grange
Balfour Winery Leslie's Reserve Brut NV	Kent	£35.00 from Balfour Winery
Chapel Down Kit's Coty Coeur De Cuvée 2016	Kent	£125.00 from Chapel Down
Gusbourne Brut Reserve 2020	Kent	£45.00 from Gusbourne
Gusbourne Blanc de Blancs Single Vineyard Boot Hill 2018	Kent	£95.00 from Gusbourne
Gusbourne Rosé 2019	Kent	£55.00 from Gusbourne
The Squerryes Partnership Brut Late Disgorged 2013	Kent	£67 from Squerryes
Roebuck Estates Classic Cuvée 2018	Sussex	£38.00 from Roebuck Estates
Sugrue South Downs Cuvée Boz 2015	Sussex	£65 from Sugrue South Downs
Harrow & Hope Pinot Meunier 2019	Thames Valley	£38.00 from Laithwaites

IWC Industry Awards: Honouring excellence in the drinks industry

This year, 35 Industry Awards were given out to individuals and companies across the nation in recognition of the work that they do bringing the joy of wine to the UK consumer.

For the second year in a row, **Liberty Wines** was named **IWC Agent 2024**, with judges noting that “the company hasn't rested on its laurels, showcasing more events, more agencies, and continued growth.” Liberty was also named Specialist of the Year for both its Australian and Italian wines, and it won **IWC On-Trade Wine Supplier 2024**.

Majestic Wine was named **IWC Large Multiple Retailer 2024** with judges praising its positive contributions to both the wine industry and society as a whole. Judges

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highlighted Majestic's fantastic charity work and commendable commitment to sustainability, for example bottling in-country. Majestic also won **IWC Rosé Retailer 2024** and **IWC French Specialist 2024**. Keith Blessley, Store Operations Director of Majestic, noted “recognition like this is invaluable and I think the endorsement it gives for our customers is super important”.

This year’s **IWC Medium Multiple Retailer 2024** went to **Amathus Drinks** which impressed judges with a significant sales uplift, an excellent online solution and a wide offering, including a growing organic and biodynamic selection. It was **Lea and Sandeman** that took home **IWC Small Multiple Retailer 2024** and judges commended the business for its huge selection and strong focus on service, whether online, in-store, or through home delivery. It was also recognised for its championship of Grower Champagnes and less obvious sparkling regions with the **IWC Sparkling Retailer 2024** award. David Porter, Head of Operations and Buying at Lea and Sandeman said “we’re delighted, we’re absolutely thrilled to be recognised by the IWC and such a stringent panel. It’s the most well regarded of all the competitions so we’re absolutely thrilled to win three awards.”

IWC Online Retailer 2024 went to **The Wine Society** for the second year in a row. Judges described it as “a benchmark for online retailing,” noting its “impressive product range” and “enduring relevance in the contemporary UK wine market.” **Virgin Wines** was awarded **IWC Wine Club 2024**, with judges noting that it was navigating a challenging wine market by keeping up with current consumer trends, for example the introduction of lower ABV and vegan wines. Emily Revell, PR and Outreach Manager at Virgin Wines said “this award means the world for the whole business. It’s testament to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved at Virgin Wines and we couldn’t be happier to be recognised for everybody’s hard efforts.”

This year’s **IWC Supermarket 2024** award went to **Marks & Spencer**, which also took home 59 medals for its wines. **Tesco** had a strong year, winning more medals than any other supermarket and claiming **IWC Own Label Range 2024** for the second year in a row. There was plenty more success for supermarket wines in this year’s challenge with the Great Value Awards in particular highlighting the remarkable quality found in UK supermarket aisles. **Tesco, Co-op, Asda** and **Spar** were all recognised with a Great Value Champion Award this year.

Savvy sips: IWC Great Value Champion Wines 2024

IWC Great Value Champion Sweet 2024	Tesco Finest Dessert Semillon 2019	£6.75 from Tesco
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IWC Great Value Champion Fortified 2024	Co-op Irresistible Pedro Ximénez	£7.50 from Co-op
IWC Great Value Champion Sparkling 2024	ASDA Asquith Gardens English Sparkling NV	£16 from ASDA
IWC Great Value Champion Rosé 2024	Compagnia Ile de Beaute Corsican Rosé 2023	£12.99 from Majestic
IWC Great Value Champion White 2024	Kleine Zalze Reserve Chardonnay 2023	£9.50 from Tesco
IWC Great Value Champion Red 2024	Spar Languedoc Rouge 2023	£8.99 from Spar

There was also success for on-trade businesses with two restaurants recognised for their outstanding wine lists. Fitzrovia-based French bistro, Noizé Restaurant, won **IWC Restaurant Wine List - Contemporary 2024** while it was the Clove Club in Shoreditch that took home **IWC Restaurant Wine List - Fine Dining 2024**. Head Sommelier of The Clove Club, Emer Landgraf, said on winning the award “It’s very exciting for us, there are so many amazing wine lists in London and the whole of England and it’s great to be recognised.”

Other awards announced on the night included:

- IWC Trade Educator 2024: Bibendum
- IWC Consumer Educator 2024: ThirtyFifty
- IWC Single Site Retailer 2024: James Nicholson Wine
- IWC Unsung Specialist 2024: Novel Wines
- IWC Buying Team 2024: Jeroboams Group

The full list of IWC UK Industry Awards winners, announced on 9th July, can be seen [here](#). The ultimate winners from the International Wine Challenge 2024, including IWC Winemakers of the Year, can be seen [here](#).

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Launched in 1991, the Industry Awards (formerly Merchant Awards) recognise and reward the outstanding achievements of the UK wine trade, including merchants, educators, distributors and agents.

In its 40th year, the International Wine Challenge is widely acknowledged as the world’s most rigorous, impartial, influential and global wine competition. The IWC assesses every wine ‘blind’ and judges each for its faithfulness to style, region and vintage. Awards

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include medals (Gold, Silver, Bronze) and Commended awards. Trophies are awarded to the very best wines in each category. The International Wine Challenge is committed to helping consumers discover great wine, and the medals offer a trusted guarantee of quality.

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