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International Wine Challenge 2024 names nine Spanish wines amongst best in the world



IWC Fortified Winemaker of the Year, Sergio Martínez, Emilio Lustau

The [International Wine Challenge](#), the world's most influential, impartial and rigorously judged global wine competition, has announced the nine highest scoring Spanish wines in its 2024 competition, with three sherries, one Cava and still wines from Galicia, Rioja and Catalonia all making the list.

In its 40th year, the International Wine Challenge awarded medals to 38 countries following an intensive blind tasting by a global panel of experts. Spain remained in third place in the medal rankings, with an exceptionally strong performance from Jerez which won 22 out of the 34 Gold medals awarded to Spain and claimed a prestigious Champion Award.

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

Bodegas Espinosa de los Monteros Palo Cortado VORS	Palo Cortado Trophy, Sherry Trophy, IWC Champion Fortified Wine 2024 - Manuel Lozano Trophy
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Bodega Delgado Zuleta Quo Vadis?	Amontillado Trophy
Emilio Lustau Pedro Ximénez VORS	Pedro Ximénez Trophy
Bodegas Villa Conchi Brut Gran Reserva 2018	Spanish Sparkling Trophy
Bodegas Pazo de Villarei 2023	Rías Baixas Trophy, Spanish White Trophy
Bodegas Valdemar Balcón de Pilatos Maturana 2020	Rioja Trophy, Spanish Red Trophy
Scala Dei Cartoixa 2020	Priorat Trophy
Bodega y Viñedos Pazo de Casanova Finca Viñoa Embotellado Tardío 2021	Ribeiro White Trophy
Mas d'en Blei Setze Brots 2017	IWC Trophy for Best Wine in First Year of Production 2024

For the fourth year in a row, Jerez has taken the title of IWC Champion Fortified Wine. This year, **Bodegas Espinosa De Los Monteros** impressed judges with its Palo Cortado VORS, which they described as “a dry sherry for connoisseurs.” There were further wins for Jerez, with **Bodega Delgado Zuleta** taking home the Amontillado Trophy and **Emilio Lustau** winning the Pedro Ximénez Trophy. Emilio Lustau’s winemaker Sergio Martínez was also recognised with the prestigious title of IWC Fortified Winemaker of the Year, marking the second year in a row this accolade has gone to a winemaker in Jerez.

This year saw an increase in medal wins for Spain’s sparkling wines, with the country gaining 46 this year, compared to last year’s 39. It was **Bodegas Villa Conchi’s** “fresh yet complex” Brut Gran Reserva 2018 that proved to be the best of them all, winning the Spanish Sparkling Trophy.

Of the 116 Spanish whites awarded medals in this year’s challenge, the top spot went to Galician producer, **Bodegas Pazo de Villarei**, for its “beautiful expression of Albarino”, Villarei 2023, which also won the Rías Baixas Trophy.

Rioja was Spain’s most highly awarded region, with a total of 138 medals awarded to its red, white and rosé wines. **Bodegas Valdemar** came out on top winning not only the Rioja Trophy but also the Spanish Red Trophy for its Balcón de Pilatos Maturana 2020, which judges described as “impressive with sleek oak and long flavours.”

Priorat featured twice in the Top 9, with **Cellers Scala Dei** winning the Priorat Trophy for its “beautifully balanced” Scala Dei Cartoixa 2020 and **Mas d'en Blei’s** Setze Brots 2017 taking the IWC Trophy for Best Wine in First Year of Production. Judges praised its “fine chalky tannins” and “vibrant acidity” describing it as “structured and taut with lovely intensity.”

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The Ribeiro White Trophy was awarded for the first time in five years, and this time it went to **Bodega y Viñedos Pazo de Casanova** for its Finca Viñoa Embotellado Tardío 2021.

The full list of Trophy and Champion winners at the 2024 International Wine Challenge announced on 9th July can be viewed [here](#).

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

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 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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