



MARCH 7-9, 2018

CHARDONNAY DU MONDE® 2018

March 6-8, 2019

THE 2018 RESULTS

Available on:
www.chardonnay-du-monde.com

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Chardonnay du Monde®

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PRESS RELEASE

BEST CHARDONNAY OF THE WORLD 2018: A UNIQUE INTERNATIONAL AWARDS LIST

The 25th annual Chardonnay du Monde® wine competition was held March 7-9, 2018 at Château des Ravatys, the wine estate of the Pasteur Institute at Saint-Lager, Burgundy (France).

The Chardonnay du Monde® international competition recognizes the world's best Chardonnay wines by awarding them with reliable and **representative medals**. This competition is based on a single conviction: distinctive marks of quality are the **key to real differentiation** and therefore enhancing the value of the awarded wines in this highly competitive market where the array of products becomes more vast each day. Award-winning wineries can use this recognition for sales purposes by placing medal stickers on their bottles.

This event is unique in terms of its scope, its method and its ambition:

- **International in scope and a seldom reached diversity:** 679 wine samples, 39 countries, 300 international expert judges.
- **A strict method with the focus on quality:** compliance with international competition standards, rigorous selection of expert judges, and the use of scientific criteria for tasting, and secure processing of computer results.
- **Optimal tasting conditions:** sensory isolation, number of samples limited to 20 per panel, expert judges do not add

up their scores allowing them to focus on evaluating the wines, and wines are tasted at an appropriate pace.

As part of these **Quality Assurances**, all new judges must participate in a one-day training session before being admitted to the tasting panels. For each judge, this session includes sensory profile determination, Chardonnay aromas identification and various exercises to familiarise themselves with methods used in international wine judging competitions.

Chardonnay du Monde® has progressively distinguished itself from other international competitions thanks to **quality standards that are much stricter than the norm** and by remaining faithful to its founding principles, which have driven its success over the years: **diversity, quality and high standards**.

After three days of judging, the **panels awarded medals to 226 participants**.

Medals Distribution

Gold medals	52
Silver medals	174

2018 GENERAL TRENDS

- **An unique geographical diversity:** with 39 countries and 679 wines entered, Chardonnay du Monde® is the strongest concentration of Chardonnay wine ever realized. It is the most significant and legitimate qualitative competition for the distinction of best Chardonnay of the World. There was also strong participation from South Africa, Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Spain, Italy, France, Romania and Switzerland.
- **Two new countries entered for the first time in competition:** Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan.

The country winning the most medals

- **The good place of France** is noted with 30 medals. The Burgundy Region win 15 gold medals (Beaujolais 2 medals, Saone & Loire 7 medals, Côte-d'Or 2 medal, Chablis 4 medal), the Languedoc-Roussillon (8 gold medals) and the Champagne (6 gold medals) were rewarded by numerous and beautiful medals.
- **Many sparkling Chardonnay were in competition:** Champagne gains very beautiful medals. South Africa, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Hungary, Spain and Switzerland received also very good notes.
- **Within Europe:** Italy, Spain, and Switzerland stood out for

their numerous medalled wines.

- **Central Europe:** (Bulgaria, Czech Republic and Romania) gains in 2018 beautiful medals.
- **Outside Europe:** Australia, Canada and South Africa confirmed their successes of earlier years. China gets its first gold medal.

There was a high level of diversity in terms of the sensorial qualities of the wines

Each wine distinguished at Chardonnay du Monde® was judged for its individual quality. A favourable view is granted to the wines showing good typicity and intense Chardonnay aromas. Oakiness is considered a plus when it is discreet and harmonious, but this quality was marked down when it masked varietal aromas.

- **Expert-judge gave severe notations** for the wines whose flavours of Chardonnay are masked by too much wood and Sauvignon flavours; they thus privileged the Chardonnay expression.
- **The presence of sugar** at a few grams per liter has a tendency to improve scores. This tendency, already noted in previous years, was confirmed this year with a number of successes for off-dry wines. Wines made from partially



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PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES



dried or late harvested grapes and those made by selective cryo-extraction received particularly good marks.

■ **Dry wines were judged successful** when they displayed harmony in the form of elegant acidity, with aromatic complexity.

International expert judges trained:

a unique level of quality and rigor for the evaluation of the Chardonnay wines of the world

More than 700 international expert judges have been trained to evaluate the wines in competition after a specific training.

TOP 10* BEST CHARDONNAY DU MONDE® 2018

Country	Product	Winery
Canada	Liquidity Chardonnay Okanagan Falls Reserve 2016	Liquidity Wines
Canada	Kalala Chardonnay Icewine – Okanagan Valley BC VQA 2016	Kalala Organic Estate Winery
Rép. Tchèque	Josef Valihrach Chardonnay Sladke Vino 2008	Vinarstvi Josef Valihrach
France	Champagne Joël Michel Blanc de Blancs Millésimé Brut 2008	Champagne Joël Michel
France	Saint-Véran Château de la Tour de l'Ange 2017	Domaines de la Bourgogne du Sud
Bulgaria	Villa Yustina Monogram Chardonnay Barrel Fermented 2016	Domain Yustina LTD
Argentina	Pascual Toso Alta Chardonnay 2017	Bodegas Y Vinedos Pascual Toso SA
Brazil	Vale dos Vinhedos do Casa Valduga Gran Terroir Leopoldina Chardonnay 2017	Casa Valduga Vinhos Finos LTDA
France	Bourgogne Hautes Côtes de Nuits 2016	La Cave des Hautes Côtes
France	Bourgogne Côtes d'Auxerre Domaine Verret 2016	Domaine Verret
France	Pays d'Oc Chardonnay Rébus 2017	SCA Le Rosé de Bessan
France	Bourgogne Chitry Bailly-Lapierre 2017	Caves Bailly Lapierre
France	Côtes de Thau IGP Le Jade Chardonnay 2017	Cave coopérative Les Costières de Pomerols

* Some wines are rigorously equal thus the TOP 10 2018 includes 13 wines.

The Top 10 ranking

At the 2018 Top 10 six countries:

Argentina, (Bodegas Pascual Toso), Brazil (Casa Valduga), Bulgaria (Domaine Yustina), Canada (Kalala organic winery, Liquidity Wines), France and Czech Republic (Josef Valihrach).

France obtains seven Gold Medals:

one for Champagne Chardonnay (Champagne Joël Michel), four for Burgundy wines (Domaine Verret, Cave Bailly-Lapierre, Domaine de la Bourgogne du Sud, Cave des Hautes

Côtes) and two Pays d'Oc wines (Le Rosé de Bessan, Cave coopérative les Costières de Pomerols). Two Chardonnay wines from Canada rank at the top of the Top 10 list.

Highlight, confirming the trend of previous years, we observe in the Top 10 a significant proportion of oak-aged wines and wines over 5 years of age.

The 2018 Top 10 propose the diversity of the expressions of Chardonnay wines through still wines, wines with residual sugars and Sparkling wines.

All results awarded by country and by medal are available at www.chardonnay-du-monde.com



Signe Extérieur de Qualité

Chardonnay du Monde® competition is organised by the Association Forum Œnologie, with participation from the Revue des Œnologues, the Institut Paul Bocuse (Ecully near Lyon) which acts as the sensory performance assessment centre for the expert judges. Secure computer processing of results is ensured by The Services Actions Qualité company.