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Global success: France, Spain, and Australia lead the 2023 International Wine Challenge

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The International Wine Challenge (IWC) is the world's most influential, impartial, and meticulously evaluated wine competition. Recently, the results of the 2023 competition were announced, showcasing thousands of wines from over 50 countries. In this edition, over 6,000 wines from across the globe were awarded prizes. Wine powerhouses such as France, Australia, and Spain led the leader board, but there were also many surprises, with the Netherlands earning its first Silver medal, and countries

like Egypt and Denmark tasting their first success in the medal ranking.

France holds top position, jura rivals Burgundy

France continued its winning streak as the most awarded country in each medal category with 70 Gold, 321 Silver, and 446 Bronze. For the first time in the history of the IWC, the Trophy for Best French White went to a Vin Jaune from the Jura region: Château-Chalon Vin Jaune 2015 by Michel Tissot & Fils. Burgundy also had an outstanding performance, bagging 152 medals for its still wines, 27 of which were Gold, more than any other French region.

Spain makes a strong statement, La Rioja reigns supreme

Spain, which ranked as the third country with the most awards in this year's challenge, garnered a total of 489 medals. La Rioja was the country's top-performing region, securing 163 of these, as well as reclaiming the Trophy for Best Spanish Red from Ribera Del Duero, which had won it every year since 2018. This prestigious title was awarded to Bodegas Campillo for their Gran Reserva 2014. Galicia was recognized for the quality of its white wines with two Gold medals for still white wines, more than any other Spanish region. Sherry also had another stellar year, winning 29 of the country's 40 Gold medals, with the Trophy for Best Sherry awarded to Bodegas Fernando De Castilla for their Oloroso Singular.

Australian fortified wine triumphs and receives global acclaim for cabernet sauvignon

Australia took second place, only surpassed by France in the challenge, with an impressive tally of 62 Gold, 250 Silver, and 199 Bronze. For the first time in over a decade, Australia beat 20 other countries to claim the International Cabernet Sauvignon Trophy, which went to Paragon Wine Estates from Coonawarra for their Riddoch The Pastoralist Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon 2021.

Austria captures two of the six international trophies

Weingut Schneeberger from Austria reclaimed the International Sauvignon Blanc Trophy this year for their Sauvignon Blanc Kittenberg Südsteiermark 2021.

Emerging countries make their mark

This year's new winners included Egypt and Denmark, which made their mark on the leaderboard with two Bronze medals each. This recognition is a testament to the increasing diversification and richness of the global wine industry, proving that great wines can indeed come from any corner of the world.

The 2023 International Wine Challenge demonstrated the unceasing vitality and innovation of the global wine industry. While traditional wine-producing regions continue to deliver exceptional quality, the emergence of new, unexpected winners proves that the world of wine is ever-evolving and remains as thrilling as ever. The excitement is already building for next year's competition, with all eyes on whether these newcomers can maintain their momentum and challenge the traditional powerhouses.