

# Press Release

News from a world of difference



## Record medals for Portugal at the 2015 Sommelier Wine Awards

Portugal celebrates a successful year at Sommelier Wine Awards as the winners are announced today (11<sup>th</sup> May). As one of the countries with the highest medals to entries ratio, Portugal took home a total of 95 medals (25 more than in 2014), including 2 Critics' Choice Trophies, 17 Golds, 31 Silvers, 21 Bronzes and 26 Commended.

Competition director Chris Losh, said: "If you've not woken up to Portugal's potential yet, you should. It's been a growing section of SWA for a few years now, and the quality and variety on offer is impressive."

Portugal's whites particularly impressed the tasters and scooped up 1 Critics' Choice Trophy, 4 Gold medals, 2 Silvers and 5 Bronzes. Vinho Verde proved popular with the tasters and picked up 2 Golds, 1 Silver, 3 Bronzes and 1 Commended.

Douro's reds made up another strong category winning 4 Golds, 4 Silvers, 1 Bronze and 1 Commended.

Competition judge Matteo Malquori of Hakkasan Hanway Place said: "You could see the real ability of Portuguese wines here. There was concentration. They're very physical wines with a lot of tannin and fruit. Real personality."

Justino's Madeira single-handedly contributed 4 Golds and 1 Silver to the Portuguese total and picked up a coveted Critic's Choice Trophy as well as the Casper Auchterlonie Award with their 1978 Terrantez.

Nuno Vale, CMO for Wines of Portugal said:

"We're delighted with Portugal's result in the 2015 Sommelier Wine Awards. Our winemakers are producing top quality wines that surprise both for their quality as much for their uniqueness, being a strong asset in any sommeliers wine list, and it is great that this is being recognised. 2015 is set to be an exciting year for Portuguese wines."

This success comes as Portuguese still wine sales grew by 23% in value and 10% in volume in the UK in 2014\*.

Stay up-to-date with the latest news from Wines of Portugal via our Facebook page "We love Portuguese Wines" and by following us on Twitter @VPWine.

\*Source: UN Comtrade

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