

Decanter

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DWWA 2020



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THE WINNERS

Platinum

■ SOUTH WEST & REST OF FRANCE

Château Lamartine, Cuvée Particulière, Cahors 2018 (13.5%)

Dark, aromatic nose with black fruit pudding, savoury black olive and smoked thyme. Dense, layered palate opening up to juicy acidity and classy tannin. Very long and full of energy.

£19 Imperial Wine Co

POA \$ T Edwards Wines, USA Wine West

After 40 vintages at the helm, in 2016 Alain Gayraud finally handed over the keys to Lamartine to his children, Benjamin and Lise, marking the property's fourth generation of family ownership.

'The Lamartine story began in the 1920s when our grandad replanted the first Malbec vines following phylloxera,' explains Benjamin. 'We grow mostly Malbec here. It's a fantastic grape in terms of fruit, tannins and acidity, plus on our terroir it's quite simple to get a lot of complexity. Cuvée Particulière is our flagship wine, a blend of our old-vine Malbec with 10% Tannat, which brings a very long finish.'



■ SOUTHERN ITALY

Cantina Tani, Serranu, Isola dei Nuraghi, Sardinia 2016 (14%)

Black cherry, roasted herb and spice bouquet. The palate shows stylish oak and herbaceous cassis and blackberry fruit characters, supported by a stylish veneer of spicy vanilla oak and fine tannins, all refreshed by juicy acidity. Top notch.

N/A UK www.cantinatani.com

With Serranu, we want to tell the story of our territory and my father, Tonino Tani, who believed in his land and founded the farm with his brother, Franco, in the 1980s,' states Roberta Tani.

'We are based in Monti, a small town in Gallura in northeast Sardinia. Serranu's vineyards are located on a plateau above the town at 500-600m, where the air smells of helichrysum and lavender. Due to the rocky granitic terrain, it is not one large single vineyard, but small parcels interspersed with granite outcrops, which we believe influences the character of our wines.'



■ SOUTHERN ITALY

Cantine Fratelli Addimanda, Starse, Taurasi, Campania 2014 (14%)

Benchmark stuff with spicy aromatics and layers of cassis, chocolate, cherry, herbs, cinnamon and clove. It needs time or robust food. It's a powerful example of Taurasi, yet it also has so much elegance. Patience will be amply rewarded.

N/A UK www.cantineaddimandataurasi.it

Cantine Fratelli Addimanda's Starse is named after the ancient *starseta* vine-training method of Taurasi, according to which the grapevine would be 'married' to other fruit plants.

A proportion of the vines which produced the Aglianico grapes for this cuvée certainly fit into the 'very old' if not quite 'ancient' category, being pre-phylloxera and approximately 150 years old.

Fratelli Addimanda is run by siblings Gianluigi, Franco and Olga, who in 2013 ceased selling their grapes, concentrating instead on producing their own wines.



■ SOUTHERN ITALY

Donnafugata, Ben Ryé, Passito di Pantelleria, Sicily 2017 (14.1%)

Seductively rich, crystallised peach nose, then an equally concentrated, rich, peachy fruit palate with hints of orange marmalade. The palate is round, viscous and has great intensity of fruit. This is as good as it gets!

£61.90-£83.99 Exel Wines, Liberty Wines

POA \$ Folio Wine Co

The winds of the island of Pantelleria carry with them a profusion of heady aromatics and inspired the name of this habitual medal-winning wine.

Ben Ryé in Arabic means 'Son of the Wind'. Such is the force of these winds that wine-growers have had to tweak their methods, training their Zibibbo vines into low bushes that sit in protective hollows in the sandy volcanic soil. Ben Ryé is a marriage of fresh and raisined grapes, the latter harvested earlier then left to dry outdoors on mats for up to four weeks before being added to the must of the fresh, ripe grapes.

