

Keyword: International wine challenge

Award-winning Turkish wines break records at London Wine Fair

Turkish wines are in the spotlight after scooping up a record number of medals announced at the London International Wine Fair (LIWF) 2011 on Tuesday 17th May, where generic body for Turkish wine, Wines of Turkey (WoT), has been exhibiting.

52 medals were awarded by the UK based International Wine Challenge (IWC) and 31 from the International Wines and & Spirit Competition (IWSC), two of the world's most prestigious and influential independent wine competitions; whilst 67 were awarded by the Decanter World Wine Awards 2011, the largest consumer wine competition in the world. In total, 150 medals [list of award-winning wines attached] have been awarded to Turkish wines at LIWF, held 17- 19th May 2011 in London.

Turkey has also received its first ever Decanter Regional Trophy, the prestigious award for wines best in their regions, awarded to Kavaklidere in the Southern & Eastern Mediterranean sweet fortified category for its Tatli Sert Narince 2000, made from indigenous white grape Narince.

Not only have Turkish wines beaten all previous records for the total number of award-winning wine this year, but they have also beaten their previous category records, including receiving more silver medals than ever before. Buyulubag, Kavaklidere, Kayra, Vinolus, Pamukkale, Urla and Vinkara wineries have together won 7 Silver in the IWC, 3 Silver & 3 Silver Best in Category (Kavaklidere) from the IWSC and 12 Silver from Decanter, as well as a huge array of other Bronze and Commended.

Indeed, the 331 medals awarded to Turkish wines from a range of international wine competitions between 2010 and 2011 is evidence of Turkey's ascent on the international stage.

Other highlights of the LIWF include a visit on the second day by the Turkish Ambassador to the UK, H.E. Ahmet Unal Cevikoz who visited and sampled wines from all the attending wineries: Doluca, Kavaklidere, Kayra, Pamukkale, Selendi, Sevilen, Vinkara, Yazgan.

Wines of Turkey also enjoyed a completely full house at its first ever standalone masterclass in the masterclass theatre on Wednesday 18th May: "Top Turkish wines, including winners in the 2011 IWC" hosted by Co-Chairman of the IWC Charles Metcalfe; who said: "There is a new generation of wine making in Turkey, some of

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which is showing some really remarkable quality; I for one would love to see more Turkish wine being distributed and sold in the UK".

Wines of Turkey also hosted its first ever tutored tastings with Isa Bal, Head Sommelier of Michelin starred The Fat Duck and ASI Best Sommelier of Europe 2008 - who is also of Turkish origin, delighting guests on the first day of the fair on the Wines of Turkey stand with "The Best Turkish Wines for the British On-Trade". Today Isa Bal also showcased "Turkey's Rising Stars: Best of the New Turkish Wines" on the IWSC stand with guests including Steven Spurrier - a tasting which has been one of their busiest of the fair. Isa Bal says "the pace of change in Turkey is incredible and the world of wine is no different. Quality is improving significantly every year and we have so many unique indigenous grapes with their own unique character that I'm confident Turkish wines are soon to make their mark on the international stage". Master of Wine and Eastern European expert Caroline Gilby MW also offered her unique vision, anecdotes and guide through the flourishing new terrains of Turkish wine on the second day of the fair.

Wines of Turkey Director Taner Ogutoglu commented: "Not only does Turkish wine have a very interesting story to tell with south-eastern Anatolia being hailed as the most likely primary domestication centre of the grapevine but it is also home to some of the most exciting new grape varieties for the future. Indeed, we strongly believe our indigenous grapes such as Emir and Narince from whites; and Kalecik Karasi, Okuzgozu and Bogazkere really will offer something new and exciting to British wine-drinkers. Now it is time to focus our efforts on getting Turkish wine distributed and sold more widely in the UK."

Indeed, according to Jancis Robinson OBE MW "Turkey's wine producers are fiercely ambitious about quality, open to what's going on elsewhere and with a huge ambition to export".

A selection of Turkish wines are now available across the UK, including at world-renowned restaurants L'Etranger, The Fat Duck, Hakkasan and a host of Turkish and Mediterranean restaurants and supermarkets nationwide. You can also purchase Turkish wines wholesale from Anatolian Foods Ltd (www.anatolianfoods.com), Tees (www.tees.co.uk) and Try Wines (www.trywines.co.uk) and online at www.tasteturkey.com.

(Turkey)

<http://ftnnews.com/news-from-turkey/12608-award-winning-turkish-wines-break-record>

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Turkish winery receives prestigious sector awards

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Thursday, May 19, 2011

ISTANBUL – Hürriyet Daily News

Kayra wines have won a total of 25 awards recently in international competitions held in France and the United Kingdom, the company has announced.

Four of the company's brands and 14 of their products were rewarded, according to a press release from the company. The Kayra brands that received awards were Kayra Imperial, Kayra Vintage, Terra and Leona.

Kayra competed in the Syrah Du Monde, which was held in France this year where the best syrah wines of the world are selected, and in the Decanter World Wine Awards, which featured 12,200 types of wine from around the world.

Kayra participated in two competitions in England, one being International Wine Challenge, which has been held in the U.K since 1984. The challenge brings together wine critics who grade the wines according to the type of grapes, production year and region.

The winery also participated in Britain's International Wine & Spirit Challenge, which has graded wines and liqueurs since 1969.

Early in 2010, the company won 18 awards in very prestigious wine awards like the Grand Harvest Awards 2011, the Monde Selection 2011, the Vinalies Internationales 2011 and the Wine Masters Challenge 2011, the company said. One of the awards received by the company was a gold medal.

"Having been spread to the world from its origins in the Anatolian soil, wine should win the place it deserves in this country, and Kayra has started its journey to make it real," the press release said. "We believe that Anatolia can produce the best wines in the world and we are very happy that these awards we have brought home with us are proof of that."

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