

W O R L D ' S B E S T

Sommeliers' SELECTION

WORLD'S BEST SOMMELIERS' SELECTION 2026 ANNOUNCED

Leading sommeliers from across the world honour 68 wines from 8 European countries following a rigorous selection process

25 February 2026 - In a global celebration of wine excellence, the world's most discerning palates came together to judge the third edition of World's Best Sommeliers' Selection. Leading sommeliers from 17 countries across six continents gathered to taste, debate and determine the standout wines of the year. The panel were invited from the global network within The World's 50 Best Restaurants, and led by Kristell Monot, President of the World's Best Sommeliers' Selection 2026, and Head Sommelier at Mugaritz, ranked No.87 in The World's 50 Best Restaurants 2025. The sommeliers' final selection features 115 wines from 16 countries and spans every colour, style and expression, offering a trusted benchmark that showcases everything from timeless icons to exciting new voices shaping the future of wine. European wines received strong acclaim in the tasting, making up more than half of the final selection. Sommeliers highlighted wines from eight European countries, ranging from long-established wine regions like Italy, Portugal, Spain and France, to emerging regions such as the Czech Republic and Greece.

To view the World's Best Sommeliers' Selection, please see [here](#) or scroll to the end of this press release.

A spokesperson for the World's Best Sommeliers' Selection comments: "We're thrilled to bring the World's Best Sommeliers' Selection back for 2026. Featuring more than 100 wines from 16 countries, the final line-up reflects the incredible diversity of the global wine landscape - from revered classics to bold new voices in winemaking. The selection remains a trusted benchmark for on-trade professionals worldwide, and we're proud to provide this platform where the world's most talented sommeliers can come together to define the future of wine."

Italy leads the line-up with 20 noteworthy wines

Italy once again dominated the selection, with red wines at the centre of its success. Thirteen of the 20 Italian entries were red wines, more than any other country, showcasing the nation's remarkable regional variety from north to south. Nebbiolo emerged as a standout, with four Barolo and Barbaresco examples reinforcing the grape's international prestige. The selection also featured more contemporary styles including a Grenache from Marche's Clara Marcelli and a Merlot from Emilia Romagna producer, Tenuta Del Paguro, which is aged on the Adriatic seabed for 12 months. A notable achievement came from Sicilian producer Arianna Occhipinti, whose commitment to organic, terroir-driven winemaking earned three places on the list - an impressive demonstration of Sicily's rising profile. Completing the Italian entries were four white wines, one rosé and two sparkling wines.

Arianna Occhipinti, Winemaker and Winery Owner at Arianna Occhipinti, comments: "We recognise a particular aptitude in sommeliers: the ability to delve into the details while also embracing a wine's full complexity. This recognition is a great honour for us, confirming that Occhipinti wines express the

Sommeliers' SELECTION

authenticity and coherence of a radical, quality-driven agricultural project. Each bottle is born from a respect for nature, from native grape varieties and from the desire to faithfully express our terroir, highlighting the character of the individual parcels between Vittoria and Chiaramonte Gulfi. It reflects an agricultural approach that embraces polyculture, biodiversity and continuous growth.”

Portugal's indigenous wines take centre stage

After Italy, Portugal emerged as the country with the second-highest number of wines in the selection, with 18 wines earning a spot across white, red and fortified categories. Four producers were recognised for their white wines, highlighting the strength of Portugal's indigenous varieties. Quinta dos Carvalhais' Encruzado was included, showcasing the winery's ongoing commitment to Dão's signature white variety. Quinta do Vallado impressed the sommeliers with a wine that demonstrates how the Douro's traditional grapes - Rabigato, Gouveio, Arinto and Viosinho - can produce structured, expressive whites that compete on the world stage. The eight reds were a mix of varietal bottlings and blends, all hailing from the Douro while the country's long-standing mastery of fortified wines was reaffirmed, with three ports and two Madeira wines making the selection.

Francisco Cabral, CEO of Quinta do Vallado, comments: “Being selected for the World's Best Sommeliers' Selection is a meaningful recognition for Quinta do Vallado because it comes directly from the palates and experience of leading sommeliers and wine directors - people who understand not only quality, but how a wine performs at the table. Seeing four of our wines included in the 2026 selection reinforces our commitment to expressing the Douro with precision and character. We hope sommeliers remember the freshness and energy of these wines, their texture at the table and the distinct sense of place that defines Vallado.”

Spain's diversity on display

Spain's presence in the selection was anchored by its red wines, with seven reds out of 12 total entries spanning some of the country's most prestigious regions, including Ribera del Duero, Rioja and Priorat. Beyond red wines, Spain's breadth in winemaking was recognised. Two sherries, a Fino and an Amontillado, tapped into renewed on-trade interest in fortified wines, while the inclusion of Pere Ventura's Gran Vintage Cava reinforces Spain's role in the global sparkling wine conversation. The two white wines point to a more contemporary direction, ranging from a Chardonnay from Navarre producer Chivite to a Viura-Chardonnay blend from Rioja heavyweight, Bodegas Faustino, highlighting the ongoing evolution of Spain's most established wine regions.

Pedro Ruiz, CEO of Pago de Carraovejas, which had three red wines featured in the selection, comments: "It is an honour to have been selected for the World's Best Sommeliers' Selection. This acknowledgment reflects not just the quality of our three wines, it also gives us the opportunity to showcase the wonderful diversity across different parts of our country. After nearly forty years of experience, always rooted in our own vineyards, we remain committed to the pursuit of uniqueness, a careful attention to detail, sustainability and innovation - pillars that express the identity of every landscape to which we belong.”

Sommeliers' SELECTION

European excellence across the continent

France made its mark among the other European entries, leading the field in both sparkling and rosé wines, while three German producers were celebrated for their world-class Riesling. Czech producer Gurdau stood out with three wines: a Riesling, a Grüner Veltliner and a sparkling Sekt, signalling growing recognition of the country's diverse quality offerings. Georgia's Shumi Winery and Estate was notable for its two traditional varietals, Saperavi and Kisi, and for contributing the only orange wine in the selection. Greece's emerging wine scene was also recognised, with one white and one red included from Macedonia producer, Ktima Gerovassiliou.

Akaki Tsopurashvili, General Director of Shumi Winery and Estate, comments: "Being part of this exclusive selection is a significant recognition of the quality of our wines and confirms their consistent international acclaim, as well as the philosophy of our winery. Kisi offers an introduction to the world's oldest winemaking method, with a history of more than 8,000 years. Made from the rare Georgian grape variety, Kisi, in traditional clay qvevri, it reflects Shumi's respect for tradition, terroir and quality. The second wine, Salome, embodies Shumi's commitment to nature, innovation and excellence as the first Georgian wine produced from organically and biodynamically grown Saperavi, sourced from our historic vineyards with a millennia-old viticultural heritage."

The World's Best Sommeliers' Selection (WBSS) for 2026 is available to view [here](#), accompanied by the sommeliers' collective tasting notes and food pairing recommendations. The tasting panel brought together 29 sommeliers and wine directors from some of the world's most celebrated restaurants. All the sommeliers represented venues featured in The World's 50 Best Restaurants, including Gaggan (No.6), Table by Bruno Verjus (No.8), Don Julio (No.10), Potong (No.13), Plénitude (No.14), and Ikoyi (No.15) from the 2025 list. See the full list of participating sommeliers [here](#).

The selection serves as a global resource for sommeliers seeking interesting wines for their lists, with the assurance that every bottle has been carefully selected by fellow professionals. The website offers advanced search tools, allowing users to discover wines by terroir characteristics (such as altitude or climate), seasonality and food pairings rather than relying on the traditional filter of grape variety. For producers interested in registering wines for the 2027 selection, registrations will open on 25th February 2026 and interested parties can request a link to register via www.worldsbestsommeliersselection.com/register.

More details can be found at www.worldsbestsommeliersselection.com

EDITOR'S NOTES:

World's Best Sommeliers' Selection 2026 (listed alphabetically by winery name):

Winery	Wine	Country	Region
Almaviva Winery	Almaviva 2018	Chile	Maipo Valley

Sommeliers' SELECTION

Almaviva Winery	Almaviva 2021	Chile	Maipo Valley
Aperture Cellars	Aperture Cabernet Sauvignon 2023	USA	California
Aperture Cellars	Aperture Sauvignon Blanc 2024	USA	California
Argiano	Solengo IGT Toscana 2021	Italy	Tuscany
Arianna Occhipinti	SM 2023	Italy	Sicily
Arianna Occhipinti	Il Frappato 2023	Italy	Sicily
Arianna Occhipinti	Grotte Alte - Cerasuolo di Vittoria 2021	Italy	Sicily
Bodega Bouza	Riesling Viñedo Pan de Azúcar 2024	Uruguay	Maldonado
Bodega Garzón	Single Vineyard Albariño 2024	Uruguay	Maldonado
Bodega Garzón	Single Vineyard Tannat 2023	Uruguay	Maldonado
Bodega Puerta del Abra	Chardo Velo de Flor 2020	Argentina	Buenos Aires Province
Bodegas Espinosa de los Monteros	Amontillado VORS	Spain	Jerez-Sherry
Bodegas Faustino	Faustino I Gran Reserva Blanco 2021	Spain	Rioja
Bodegas Montecillo	Viña Monty Graciano Reserva 2019	Spain	Rioja
Bodegas Salentein	Primus Chardonnay 2022	Argentina	Mendoza
Bodegas Salentein	Single Vineyard La Pampa '97 2021	Argentina	Mendoza
Bodegas Ysios	Ysios Finca Lagunazuri 2021	Spain	Rioja
Cantina Rotari	Rotari Flavio 2016	Italy	Trentino-Alto Adige
Casa Ferreirinha	Vinha Grande Red 2022	Portugal	Douro
Casa Ferreirinha	Quinta da Leda Red 2022	Portugal	Douro
Casa Tés	Gramma Branco 2024	Brazil	São Paulo
Catena Zapata	Birth of Cabernet 2021	Argentina	Mendoza
Ceretto	Barolo Brunate 2021	Italy	Piedmont
Ceretto	Barbaresco Asili 2014	Italy	Piedmont
Ceretto	Barolo Bricco Rocche 2021	Italy	Piedmont
Champagne Frerejean Frères	VV26 Grand Cru NV	France	Champagne
Champagne Gourel Lassalle	Parcelle Les Agneaux NV	France	Champagne
Château d'Esclans	Les Clans 2024	France	Provence
Château d'Esclans	Garrus 2024	France	Provence
Château Smith Haut Lafitte	Château Smith Haut Lafitte Blanc 2022	France	Bordeaux
Chivite	Colección 125 Gran Vino Blanco 2023	Spain	Navarre
Clara Marcelli	Ruggine 2021	Italy	Marche
Clos Apalta	Prelude 2023	Chile	Colchagua Valley
Colomé	El Arenal Malbec Single Vineyard 2022	Argentina	Salta
Daou Vineyards	Cabernet Sauvignon 2022	USA	California
Daou Vineyards	Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2022	USA	California
Daou Vineyards	Estate Soul of a Lion 2021	USA	California
Feudo Arancio	Feudo Arancio Hedonis 2022	Italy	Sicily
Freeman Vineyard & Winery	Yu-ki Estate Pinot Noir 2022	USA	California

Sommeliers' SELECTION

Gonzalez Byass	Tio Pepe en Rama 2025	Spain	Sherry-Jerez
Gurdau	Sekt 36m 2021	Czech Republic	Moravia
Gurdau	Riesling Stará Hora 2022	Czech Republic	Moravia
Gurdau	Veltliner Vinohrádky 2023	Czech Republic	Moravia
Justino's	Verdelho Frasqueira 1997	Portugal	Madeira
Justino's	Malvasia 50 Years Old	Portugal	Madeira
Karthäuserhof	Karthäuserhofberg GG 2023	Germany	Mosel
Ktima Gerovassiliou	Malagousia 2024	Greece	Macedonia
Ktima Gerovassiliou	Avaton 2022	Greece	Macedonia
La Scolca	Gavi di Gavi Limited Edition 2021	Italy	Piedmont
Lingua Franca	Sisters Chardonnay 2023	USA	Oregon
Lingua Franca	Estate Chardonnay 2023	USA	Oregon
Lingua Franca	The Plow Pinot Noir 2023	USA	Oregon
Lingua Franca	Estate Pinot Noir 2023	USA	Oregon
Luca Leggero Villareggia	Erbaluce di Caluso DOCG Rend Nen 2022	Italy	Piedmont
Madame Veuve Point	Rully Blanc 2023	France	Burgundy
Marchesi di Barolo	Barolo Riserva 2016	Italy	Piedmont
Mas de Daumas Gassac	Grand Vin 2016	France	Languedoc Roussillon
Merum Priorati	Desti 2022	Spain	Catalonia
Mezzacorona	Musivum Teroldego Rotaliano 2019	Italy	Trentino-Alto Adige
Mission Hill Family Estate	Oculus 2020	Canada	British Columbia
Mission Hill Family Estate	Terroir Collection Cabernet Franc 2022	Canada	British Columbia
Nino Franco Spumanti	Grave di Stecca Brut 2018	Italy	Veneto
Pago de Carraovejas	Pago de Carraovejas 2023	Spain	Castilla Y Leon
Pago de Carraovejas	El Anejon 2021	Spain	Castilla Y Leon
Pago de Carraovejas	Cuesta de las Liebres 2021	Spain	Castilla Y Leon
Peralada	Perelada Garrigal Vinyes Velles 2023	Spain	Catalonia
Pere Ventura	Gran Vintage 2016	Spain	Cava
Perissos Vineyard and Winery	Picpoul Blanc 2023	USA	Texas
Perissos Vineyard and Winery	Aglianico 2022	USA	Texas
Pyros Wines	Vineyard Block N° 4 Malbec 2022	Argentina	San Juan
Quinta da Côte	TNX Douro 2021	Portugal	Douro
Quinta das Carvalhas	Vinhas Velhas 2021	Portugal	Douro
Quinta de Azevedo	Loureiro Escolha White 2024	Portugal	Minho VR
Quinta de Soalheiro	Granit 2024	Portugal	Vinho Verde
Quinta de Soalheiro	Reserva 2023	Portugal	Vinho Verde
Quinta do Crasto	Tinta Roriz 2017	Portugal	Douro
Quinta do Crasto	Tawny 30 Years Old	Portugal	Porto
Quinta do Vallado	Vallado Reserva Branco 2024	Portugal	Douro

Sommeliers' SELECTION

Quinta do Vallado	Vallado Field Blend Reserve 2022	Portugal	Douro
Quinta do Vallado	Vinha da Coroa 2022	Portugal	Douro
Quinta do Vallado	Vinha da Granja 2022	Portugal	Douro
Quinta dos Carvalhais	Encruzado White 2023	Portugal	Dão
Riccitelli Wine	Old Vines from Patagonia Semillon 2024	Argentina	Patagonia
Robert Mondavi Winery	Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2022	USA	California
Rose Family Estate	Wairau River Sauvignon Blanc 2025	New Zealand	Marlborough
Ruffino	Romitorio di Santedame 2022	Italy	Tuscany
Ruffino	Alauda 2021	Italy	Tuscany
Rutini	Apartado Nature 2017	Argentina	Mendoza
Rutini	Single Vineyard Gualtallary Chardonnay 2023	Argentina	Mendoza
Rutini	Single Vineyard Altamira Malbec 2021	Argentina	Mendoza
Sacromonte	Quiebre 2023	Uruguay	Maldonado
Sacromonte	Deux Revês, Uné Destinée 2023	Uruguay	Montevideo
Sandeman	Vintage Port Quinta do Seixo 2022	Portugal	Douro
Sandeman	Tawny Port 20 Years Old	Portugal	Douro
Schloss Johannisberg	Orangelack Kabinett 2024	Germany	Rheingau
Shumi Winery and Estate	Kisi Qvevri Iberiuli 2022	Georgia	Kakheti
Shumi Winery and Estate	Salome 2022	Georgia	Kakheti
Tenuta Del Paguro	Ostrea in fundo 2023	Italy	Emilia Romagna
Tenuta Del Paguro	Homarus 2021	Italy	Emilia Romagna
Tokara Wine & Olive Estate	Tokara Reserve Collection Cabernet Sauvignon 2022	South Africa	Stellenbosch
Trapiche Winery	Trapiche Iscay 2022	Argentina	Mendoza
Uplift Vineyard	Viognier 2024	USA	Texas
Uplift Vineyard	Aglianico 2023	USA	Texas
Veuve Clicquot	Veuve Clicquot La Grande Dame 2018	France	Champagne
Viabizzunoagricola	donnacricri 2023	Italy	Sicily
Vik	La Piu Belle 2022	Chile	Cachapoal Valley
Vik	Milla Cala 2022	Chile	Cachapoal Valley
Vik	STONEVIK 2024	Chile	Cachapoal Valley
Vik	VIK 2022	Chile	Cachapoal Valley
Viña Don Melchor	Don Melchor 2021	Chile	Maipo Valley
Weingut Korrell	Kreuznacher Paradies Riesling 2021	Germany	Nahe
William Chris Vineyards	Boxing Rabbit Cuvee 2023	USA	Texas
William Chris Vineyards	Hunter 2023	USA	Texas
Zuccardi Valle de Uco	Concreto Malbec 2023	Argentina	Mendoza

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Sommeliers' SELECTION

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About World's Best Sommeliers' Selection

World's Best Sommeliers' Selection celebrates outstanding wines as chosen by some of the world's most respected sommeliers. During the tasting, the sommelier panel evaluated each wine with access to detailed backstories and producer videos. The sommeliers provided tasting notes and food pairings for each wine, before discussing the wine collectively and reaching a consensus on its inclusion in the World's Best Sommeliers' Selection 2026. The selection is brought to you by William Reed, the company behind The World's 50 Best Restaurants and The World's 50 Best Vineyards.

Throughout the World's Best Sommeliers' Selection tasting, all wines were served in Gabriel Glas stems.