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HARPERS
Wine Stars
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2018

FRANCE 2018



REGIONAL WINNERS

LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON
Vignoble Famille Deroose Esprit des Garrigues, 2012
Looking for distribution
★★★★★ **Star Of France (Joint), Star Taste France, Star Of Languedoc-Roussillon**
A wine that clearly wowed the judges, sweeping up three Star Awards – and no surprise, with its lovely berry aromas and soft and approachable palate, giving up red fruits, lined with gentle oak and ripe but supple tannins. An elegant wine, perfect for independent merchants and restaurants.

BURGUNDY
Louis Jadot Beune 1er Cru Les Teurons, 2010
Hatch Mansfield
★★★★★ **Star Of Burgundy**
Developed nose with mature nuances of forest floor, vanilla and cherry. An elegant and complex wine, with fine structure and lovely, balanced fruit through to the long finish. Good value for the money, too.

SOUTH WEST
Plaimont Producteurs Gueules De Saint Mont, 2014
★★★★★ **Star Value France (Joint) and Star Of South West France (Joint)**
Described at once as being youthful, juicy and floral, rustic but with charming character, this was full-bodied, concentrated, with firm tannins and a long, mouth-watering finish. Well-priced, well-targeted for the independent market and well-liked by our judges.

NORTHERN RHÔNE
Jean-Luc Colombo Saint-Peray La Belle de Mai, 2016
Hatch Mansfield
★★★★★ **Star Of Northern Rhône**
With rich and creamy aromas on the nose, a wonderful balance of soft stone fruits and spiciness on the complex, rich and satisfying palate, this had good balance, persistence and finished well. A good wine, offering real value and a soothing label.

THE LOIRE VALLEY
Bouvet Ladubay Saumur Brut Blanc NV Majestic Wine
★★★★★ **Star Value France (Joint)**
Fresh, crisp and citrusy on the nose, this led into a more complex, layered palate, with good acidity to balance, offering more than a match for Prosecco while being at an attractive price.

BEAUJOLAIS
Château Des Reyssiers Régnié, Henry Fessy, 2016
Louis Latour Agencies
★★★★ **Star Of Beaujolais**
A fantastic mid-range Beaujolais, showing youthful, juicy, and fresh Gamay fruit, with a long and well-balanced finish. A Beaujolais with bags of character for bistros, gastropubs and indie merchants.

SOUTHERN RHÔNE
Famille Quiot Nolandra Châteauneuf Du Pape, 2010
Looking for distribution
★★★★ **Star Of Southern Rhône**
Garnet hued, this revealed a deep, inviting dark fruit nose, followed by a richly satisfying and concentrated palate, with spices rounding off great length. A hit with the judges and also liked for its more modern-leaning label.



THE LOIRE VALLEY
Joseph Mellot Menetou-Salon Les Thureaux, 2017
Hatch Mansfield
★★★★★ **Star Of France (Joint) and Star Of The Loire Valley**
A fabulous wine, with everything in its place and shining. This had a relatively restrained, elegant nose, showing attractive aromas of herbs and citrus nature. More elegance came through on a palate with lovely balance and some good weight of fruit on a long finish. Definitely one for independents and quality restaurants.

BORDEAUX
Château Castagnac Cuvée Raphaël, 2016
Looking for distribution
★★★★★ **Star Of Bordeaux and Satellites and Star Design**
Youthful, with red fruits, plums and sloes on nose and palate, this balanced, elegant wine combined vibrant fruit on a medium body with ripe tannins, and a juicy red berry finish. Well-made everyday and easy-drinking Bordeaux that punches well above its price.

CHAMPAGNE
Champagne Jacquart Rosé Mosaïque NV
Looking for distribution
★★★★★ **Star Of Champagne**
Good steady mousse with a lovely salmon-pink hue. Lovely fruit on the palate, showing great balance and a lingering, strawberryish finish. Also considered to over-deliver for the price tag, a great all-round pink Champagne.

SOUTH WEST
Domaine Laballe Les Terraces Basses, 2017
Looking for distribution
★★★★★ **Star of South West France (Joint)**
Minerally and mouth-watering, this was quite concentrated and juicy with a satisfying texture, ripe, fleshy fruit notes and good acidity, concluding with a good, long and lingering finish. A great wine for seafood and considered to be fantastic value.

VIN DE FRANCE
Vino Veritas Bohemia Blanche, 2017
★★★★ **Star of Vin De France**
Grassy and easy drinking, this was a crisp and fresh style, with attractive fruit – great as an everyday house pourer. Also good value for money with an attractive label, making for a great all-round package.

PROVENCE
Domaine Houchart Côtes de Provence Sainte Victoire Rosé, 2017
Rodney Fletcher/Prix
★★★★ **Star of Provence**
Still, light-pale pink, very of-the-moment colour, showing attractive raspberries and mint on the nose, with slightly richer notes of strawberries and cream on the palate through to a long, crisp and zippy finish. A competitively priced and well-presented wine, great for on-trade or independent retail.

HARPERS WINE STARS AWARDS 2018: France

Andrew Catchpole outlines the big winners in the inaugural French Wine Stars tasting, which highlighted the amazing diversity and quality across the country's regions

With its myriad regions and wealth of wine styles, France provides fertile hunting grounds for buyers and consumers alike, packing in every conceivable style of wine with its incredibly diverse vineyards and cellars. And so it proved with our inaugural French Wine Stars flights, lining up a medley of regions and styles for our judges to swirl, sniff, spit and then decide as to which were worthy, judged on taste, then value, then label design. France put in a strong showing, with Languedoc-Roussillon and Bordeaux and its satellites notching up the most stars between them, with

many five and four-star ratings awarded over the course of judging those flights. Both were noted as offering many samples that deliver great value for the quality of liquid, showing that both the most traditional and newest of quality regions can stand shoulder to shoulder when it comes to producing wines in tune with the modern buyer. The whites, across all regions, were generally noted as showing well, with diverse styles delivering a high level of complexity and drinkability, again impressing the judges. Last but far from least were both the Champagnes and their cousins, the Crémants, with some star wines among them and the Crémants, especially, making a very strong case quality-wise for seeing more of these wines on lists and shelves.

HOW WINE STARS WORKS

Harpers Wine Stars Awards is markedly different from the run of the mill wine competitions, being judged by buyers for buyers, taking blind-assessed quality as the starting point, but then adding two further layers for consideration, with additional rounds of judging assessing the wines for value for money and then design and packaging. As such, these awards are like no other, taking an holistic approach, considering all of the factors that influence buying decisions, including elements of appeal to the final wine-buying consumer. To find out more or enter wines to future Wine Stars Awards, please contact: lee.sharkey@agilemedia.co.uk

JUDGES

Christine Parkinson, wine buyer, Hakkasan Group



Camilla Wood, managing director, The Somerset Wine Company



Jess Puckering, wine shop manager, Old Bridge Wine



Carlos Blanco, managing director, Blanco & Lynd



Andrea Viera, director and owner, Last Drop Wines



Alessandro Comitini, manager, Amathus Drinks



Alistair Morrell, consultant,



Collette Whittington-Bowers, wine director, Hills Prospect



Louise Boddington, category manager, Carlsberg Group



Matthieu Longuère MS, Wine development manager, Le Cordon Bleu



TOP PICKS THE FIVE STAR WINNERS



LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON
Domaine La Grange Terroir
Cabernet Sauvignon, 2016
Made in Little France

★★★★★
A bold, juicy wine, with an enticing herby, almost tarry, concentration on the palate, with refined but firm tannins. Deemed a good option for the broader commercial market.



LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON
Domaine La Grange Castalides
Édition, 2016
Made in Little France

★★★★★
Heather, black pepper and red fruit notes sprang out on the nose, continuing into a satisfying, long palate, with hints of liquorice and chocolate. Young, but showing great promise as it opened in the glass.



LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON
Jacques Boyer Domaine de
Coussan Rosé, 2017
Looking for distribution

★★★★★
Pretty, silvery pink, delicate fruity nose with enjoyable berry palate. A good summer rosé, with decent length, good value and with a smart label.



LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON
Vignoble Famille Deroose
Vignals/2, 2016
Looking for distribution

★★★★★
Powerful nose of lime and straw. On the palate stone fruit, with

a satin mouthfeel and good, lingering length. Considered good to excellent value for money.



LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON
Jacques Boyer Domaine de
Coussan Chardonnay, 2017
Looking for distribution

★★★★★
Good nose, showing lemon curd, lillet and honeysuckle, leading into a rich, lemony palate with hints of melon. Dry with well-balanced body and acidity. A good example of the style and good value.



LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON
Jacques Boyer Domaine de
Coussan, Côtes de Thongue, 2016
Looking for distribution

★★★★★
Offering up black cherries and spice on the nose, this was an honest and likeable fruity expression of juicy, sun-ripened Languedoc-Roussillon fruit, with good structuring tannins. A good value wine for gastro pubs and hearty home cooking.



LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON
Famille Helfrich Château Seguala
Côtes du Roussillon Villages
Tautavel, 2015
The Oxford Wine Company

★★★★★
This was packed with sweet, ripe cherry and plum fruits, savoury and layered, with supple tannins and a very fresh finish for its weight. One for the shelves of indies or good on-trade.



LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON
Lionel Boutié/Domaine Ricardelle
de Lautrec Pinot Pontserme,
2015
Looking for distribution

★★★★★
Showing some good value, this had minty, gamey aromas, with soft tannins, juicy with very dark, brooding character. Not typical Pinot Noir, but easy to drink with flavoursome food and a good choice for gastro pubs and restaurants.



LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON
Vignoble Famille Deroose
Esprit/2, 2014
Looking for distribution

★★★★★
A lifted, aromatic, herbal nose leading into bold, juicy, herby red fruit on the palate. Great character and value for the money, with a label that would stand out on a multiple's shelf.



LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON
Famille Helfrich Domaine de La
Baume Viognier, 2017
Templar Wines

★★★★★
Lovely aromas of apricots, following through on the palate with some deeper, savoury undertones. Described as excellent at the price, this boasted an attractive, modern label design.



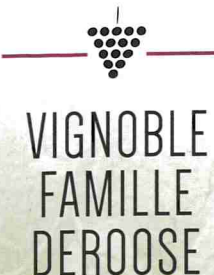
BORDEAUX AND SATELLITES
Château Grand Village Rouge
Bordeaux Superieur, 2015
Armit Wines

★★★★★
Earthy, with a pleasant whiff of undergrowth and cedar, this was ripe and starting to develop nicely. Full-bodied and concentrated, with some oak tannins. Ambitious and opulent, a modern style and great value for money.



BORDEAUX AND SATELLITES
Famille Helfrich Badine de La
Patache Pomerol, 2015
Oxford Wine Company

★★★★★
Complex, fresh, and elegant, with a heady mix of eucalyptus, pine, violet, balsamic and tobacco notes through nose and palate. Described as a well-priced and well-targeted wine for the hospitality and independent sectors.



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how to seduce me ...



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FRANCE

WINE NAME IMPORTER NAME STAR RATING

LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON

DOMAINE LA GRANGE TERROIR CABERNET SAUVIGNON, 2016	MADE IN LITTLE FRANCE	★★★★★
DOMAINE LA GRANGE CASTALIDES EDITION, 2016	MADE IN LITTLE FRANCE	★★★★★
FAMILLE HELFRICH DOMAINE DE LA BAUME SYRAH, 2017	WINE IMPORTERS	★★★★★
FAMILLE HELFRICH CHÂTEAU SEGUALA CÔTES DU ROUSSILLON VILLAGES TAUTAVEL, 2015	THE OXFORD WINE COMPANY	★★★★★
FAMILLE HELFRICH DOMAINE DE LA BAUME VIOGNIER, 2017	TEMPLAR WINES	★★★★★
JACQUES BOYER DOMAINE DE COUSSAN ROSÉ, 2017	LOOKING FOR DISTRIBUTION	★★★★★
JACQUES BOYER DOMAINE DE COUSSAN CHARDONNAY, 2017	LOOKING FOR DISTRIBUTION	★★★★★
JACQUES BOYER DOMAINE DE COUSSAN CÔTES DE THONGUE, 2016	LOOKING FOR DISTRIBUTION	★★★★★
LIONEL BOUTIÉ/DOMAINE RICARDELLE DE LAUTREC PINOT PONTSERME, 2015	LOOKING FOR DISTRIBUTION	★★★★★
VIGNOBLE FAMILLE DEROOSE VIGNALS/2, 2016	LOOKING FOR DISTRIBUTION	★★★★★
VIGNOBLE FAMILLE DEROOSE ESPRIT/2, 2014	LOOKING FOR DISTRIBUTION	★★★★★
VIGNOBLE FAMILLE DEROOSE ESPRIT DES GARRIGUES, 2012	LOOKING FOR DISTRIBUTION	★★★★★ STAR OF FRANCE, JOINT STAR TASTE FRANCE, STAR OF LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON
FAMILLE HELFRICH DOMAINE LES ROUMANIS MUSCAT ST-JEAN DE MINERVOIS, 2016	TJ WINES	★★★★
FAMILLE HELFRICH SALASAR CARTE AZUR BRUT CRÉMANT DE LIMOUX NV	TATE SMITH	★★★★
FAMILLE HELFRICH DOMAINE MAS BELLES EAUX PETIT VERDOT, 2017	HOUSE OF TOWNEND	★★★★
LES VIGNERONS DE FLORENSAC PICPOUL DE PINET, 2017	ALLIANCE WINE	★★★★
LIONEL BOUTIÉ/DOMAINE RICARDELLE DE LAUTREC SAUVIGNON MARIN, 2017	LOOKING FOR DISTRIBUTION	★★★★
VIGNOBLE FAMILLE DEROOSE CALADOC ROUGE, 2016	LOOKING FOR DISTRIBUTION	★★★★
CALMEL & JOSEPH VILLA BLANCHE TERRET BLANC, 2017	DANIEL LAMBERT WINES	★★★
DOMAINE LA GRANGE TRADITION SELECTION, 2016	MADE IN LITTLE FRANCE	★★★
DOMAINE LA GRANGE CASTALIDES ICÔNE, 2016	MADE IN LITTLE FRANCE	★★★
FAMILLE HELFRICH DOMAINE MAS BELLES EAUX GRENACHE BLANC, 2016	HOUSE OF TOWNEND	★★★
FAMILLE HELFRICH DOMAINE LE PLAN DE L'HOMME 'KHI' TERRASSES DU LARZAC, 2016	GREAT GROG	★★★
LES VIGNERONS DE FLORENSAC SAUVIGNON BLANC, 2017	ALLIANCE WINE	★★★
LES VIGNERONS DE LA VICOMTE CHARLES PERE FILS SAUVIGNON BLANC, 2017	INNVIINO	★★★
LIONEL BOUTIÉ/DOMAINE RICARDELLE DE LAUTREC CHARDONNAY PONTSERME, 2016	LOOKING FOR DISTRIBUTION	★★★
MAS LA CHEVALIÈRE PEYROLI, 2016	LIBERTY WINES	★★★
MAS LA CHEVALIÈRE ROQUA BLANCA, 2016	LIBERTY WINES	★★★
SIEUR D'ARQUES CRÉMANT DE LIMOUX AGUILA NV	LOOKING FOR DISTRIBUTION	★★★

NORTHERN RHONE

JEAN-LUC COLOMBO SAINT-PERAY LA BELLE DE MAI, 2016	HATCH MANSFIELD	★★★★ STAR OF NORTHERN RHÔNE
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WHAT THE JUDGES SAID:

"There was a nice range across entry, middle and high, and good examples of where each of those sit. It was great to try some new things – a Cahors Malbec that could stand up to Argentina.

"France performs well across all price levels. We stock £8 all the way up to rather expensive Burgundy and Bordeaux. France represents a lot to learn if you're not into [those top wines]."

Jess Puckering, wine shop manager, Old Bridge Wine

"The Crémants especially offered very good value for money. All of them were at least average in quality, but many good and very good, based on price, quality and category as a whole. The French reds presented less quality than the whites, and underperformed in value for money. As a wine merchant, I thought some of the sparkling and white wines would work well for the on-trade and indies, but the red wines were more supermarket level.

"Within Europe, France still plays an important role. From Languedoc-Roussillon there are a lot of affordable wines which show great quality. Crémants and whites are doing very well. It's not the same with reds – in France if you want value for money you have to look to the Languedoc-Roussillon."

Carlos Blanco, managing director, Blanco & Lynds

"Single varietal still whites were showing really well. Marsanne and Viognier single varietals were really good. Quality and price matched up. The still whites were generally true to variety, did what they said on the tin and were fair across the board for the price."

Andrea Viera, director and owner, Last Drop Wines