

# ULTIMATE BEVERAGE CHALLENGE



# ULTIMATE WINE CHALLENGE 2018

Everything related to **Ultimate Wine Challenge® (UWC)** is extraordinary from its famously rigorous methodology, to its world-class judges, to the Ultimate Beverage Challenge Evaluation Center in Hawthorne, NY and, finally, to the stellar list of 33 Chairman's Trophy winners for 2018.

Led by Founder and Judging Chairman **F. Paul Pacult**, fourteen of the world's foremost wine experts, buyers, educators, and journalists convened in May to evaluate more than 1,300+ still, sparkling and fortified wines, ciders and sakes from around the world.

This extraordinary group of world-class judges included **Kristen Wolfe Bieler**, journalist; **James Conley**, wine buyer; **Vitalii Dascaluic**, sommelier and wine educator; **Doug Frost**, Master Sommelier, Master of Wine, journalist and consultant;

**Tim Gagnon**, writer and consultant; **Jason Hedges**, beverage manager; **Danny Klein**, consultant, educator; **Tess Rose Lampert**, wine educator; **John Rankin**, consultant and writer; **Mike Reilly**, CSW; **Patricia Savoie**, wine journalist; **Rick Schofield**, CWE, consultant; **Paul Tanguay**, buyer and consultant, and **F. Paul Pacult**.



Under the strict tenets of UWC's rules of service, all entries are served without the judges knowing anything about the wines except for their category. In order to insure complete fairness, no labels are seen, no producer identities are revealed, and no prices are divulged to the judges. All wines are judged in appropriate glassware at the proper temperature and are grouped for the judges into small flights of 2-8 wines matching like-with-like in terms of grape type, region and price.

Said Judging Chairman F. Paul Pacult, "Assessing with care and precision an international field of 1,300+ wine, cider, and sake submissions takes a herculean effort of total dedication from UWC's exemplary teams of judges and back-of-house. Each succeeding year's growth in entries from producers making wine, cider and sake on five continents points to their belief in UWC's complete commitment to impartial methodology and uncompromising integrity. Everything we do, each system we've installed, is geared to a sole purpose: to showcase every entry's virtues in its peer group." Full results can be found at: [ultimate-beverage.com/uwc2018results](http://ultimate-beverage.com/uwc2018results).

The names of top scoring wines, ciders, and sakes will be published in the **Ultimate Beverage Challenge 2018 Guide to the World's Best Wines & Spirits** in the October 2018 issue of selected Beverage Network Publications. Over 73,000 licensed buyers in the top beverage alcohol markets in the U.S. receive this Guide.

ULTIMATE WINE CHALLENGE...NO SHORTCUTS. JUST HONEST, IMPARTIAL JUDGING.



# 2018 CHAIRMAN'S TROPHY WINNERS:

## CHAMPAGNE/ SPARKLING/ FRIZZANTE WINE

Asti/Moscato d'Asti  
Italy Villa Rosa 2017  
Moscato d'Asti (Italy)

Cava—Spain  
Anna de Codorniu  
Brut Rose Cava  
(Spain)

Champagne—France  
Moët & Chandon  
Grand Vintage 2009  
Champagne (France)

Prosecco—Italy  
La Marca Prosecco  
Veneto (Italy)

Sparkling Wine—USA  
Domaine Carneros  
by Taittinger Le Reve  
2011 Carneros (United  
States)

Sparkling Wine—World  
Chapel Down Classic  
Brut Tenterden  
(England)

## WHITE WINE

Chardonnay—World  
Rodney Strong Estate  
Vineyards Chardonnay  
2015 Chalk Hill (United  
States)

Pinot Grigio/Pinot  
Gris—World  
Balletto Vineyards  
Pinot Gris 2017  
Russian River Valley  
(United States)

Riesling—World  
Wagner Vineyards

Semi Dry Riesling 2016  
Finger Lakes (United  
States)

Sauvignon Blanc—  
World  
Frei Brothers Reserve  
Sauvignon Blanc 2016  
Russian River Valley  
(United States)

White Wine—  
Central/Southeastern  
Europe  
Lenkey Dulohazassag  
2007 Tokaj (Hungary)

White Wine—France  
Marcel Dubois White  
Loire Wine Chenin  
Blanc 2017 Vouvray  
(France)

White Wine—Italy  
San Felo Le Stoppie  
Vermentino 2017  
Maremma Toscana  
(Italy)

White Wine—Portugal  
Beyra 2017 Beira  
Interior (Portugal)

White Wine—Spain  
Valdecuevas Cuvee  
Verdejo 2016 Rueda  
Superior (Spain)

## RED WINE

Cabernet Sauvignon—  
World  
Backstage Reserve  
Cabernet Sauvignon  
2014 Oakville (United  
States)

Malbec—World  
Alamos Malbec 2016  
Mendoza (Argentina)

Pinot Noir—World  
J. Lohr Highlands  
Bench Pinot Noir 2015  
Santa Lucia Highlands  
(United States)

Red Blends—  
North America  
J. Lohr Cuvee ST. E  
2014 Paso Robles  
(United States)

Red Wine—Central/  
Southeastern Europe  
Stone Castle Vineyards  
and Winery Selection  
Merlot 2014 Rahovec  
(Kosovo)

Red Wine—Eastern  
Mediterranean  
Zacharias Cabernet  
Sauvignon 2016  
Peloponnese (Greece)

Red Wine—France  
Chateau Bellevue-  
Cardon Cabernet  
Sauvignon 2015  
Pauillac (France)

Red Wine—Italy  
San Felo Balla la  
Vecchia 2016 Maremma  
Tuscana (Italy)

Red Wine—Portugal  
Quinta da Alorna  
Reserva Touriga  
Nacional - Cabernet  
Sauvignon 2014 Tejo  
(Portugal)

Red Wine—Spain  
Baron De Ley Museum  
Reserva Tempranillo  
2012 Cigales (Spain)

Sweet Red Wine—  
World  
Quady Winery Red  
Electra Moscato 2016

California (United  
States)

Zinfandel—USA  
Gallo Signature Series  
Zinfandel 2015 Dry  
Creek Valley (United  
States)

## ROSÉ WINE

Rosé—Europe  
Cara Viva Rose 2017  
Vinho Regional  
(Portugal)

Rosé—North America  
Sonoma-Cutrer Rose  
of Pinot Noir 2017  
Sonoma County  
(United States)

## DESSERT WINE

Dessert Wine—World  
Elysium Red Dessert  
Wine 2016 California  
(United States)

## SAKE

Junmai Ginjo—World  
Joto Sake "The Pink  
One" Junmai Ginjo  
Ibaraki (Japan)

Junmai—World  
Joto Sake "The  
Green One" Junmai  
Yamagata (Japan)

## CIDER

Cider—World  
Angry Orchard Iceman  
Hard Cider Hudson  
Valley (United States)