



Press release for immediate publication

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Record Number of Entries at This Year's VinAgora International Wine Competition

The **27th VinAgora International Wine Competition** once again balanced innovation with tradition. This year, the competition expanded with new cooperating partners, the introduction of the **Commended distinction**, and the continuation of the **Spotlight Varieties** program, which this time highlighted Riesling and Merlot. At the same time, the core values that define VinAgora's professional credibility remained unchanged: internationally recognised, objective judging, a strong commitment to quality, and deep respect for the values behind every wine. The competition once again ensured that the most outstanding wines received the professional recognition they deserved supported by modern technology and an international panel of experts.

Wine competitions continue to play a key role in the development of the wine industry. On one hand, they provide wineries with valuable professional feedback and prestigious recognition; on the other, they help consumers navigate the market when selecting high-quality wines. International competitions are especially important, as they offer wineries the opportunity to present themselves on a global stage and strengthen their market presence abroad. VinAgora is an internationally recognised wine competition operating under the patronage of **VINO FED and applying the OIV-recommended, officially recognised 100-point evaluation system**. It is also Hungary's only officially accredited international wine competition. Ahead of this year's event, Hungary also hosted the annual VINO FED General Assembly, where representatives of member competitions discussed the future of wine competitions, opportunities for stronger professional cooperation, and the current challenges and development directions of the wine sector.

The highly successful **Spotlight Varieties** program also continued at VinAgora in 2026, with **Riesling and Merlot** placed at the centre of attention this year. The initiative attracted a significant number of entries, with 64 Riesling and 59 Merlot wines competing in the program. Among the wines evaluated with special professional attention, **TOP 25 selections were compiled in both varieties**, showcasing the most outstanding wines of each category. The aim of the program remains to highlight the diversity, character and quality potential of internationally important grape varieties, while also providing professional inspiration and broader visibility for wineries.





In 2026, VinAgora further expanded its award system with the introduction of the new Commended distinction. This recognition provides official acknowledgement for outstanding wines that, due to strict international medal allocation rules, previously could not receive an award despite their high quality. VinAgora continues to operate in accordance with OIV regulations, under which medals may only be awarded to a maximum of 30% of entered wines. The new Commended category, however, allows additional high-quality wines to receive the recognition they deserve. Typically awarded to wines scoring above 85 points, the distinction highlights wines of above-average quality that stand out for their character, style and value for money. Awarded wines are also entitled to use the official VinAgora Commended sticker, offering both credible professional recognition and guidance for consumers.

International Expertise and a Precise Judging System at VinAgora

One of the key foundations of the competition's success is its high-level professional background and carefully structured judging system. Behind every bottle entered into the competition stands the dedication, expertise and passion of winemakers, which the international jury approached with the utmost respect and attention. This year's **76-member judging panel** consisted of renowned winemakers, sommeliers, educators, merchants and international experts arriving in Budapest from numerous countries, including Italy, Spain, the United Kingdom, Germany, Brazil, Greece, Slovakia and France. The international composition of the jury is also required by OIV regulations, ensuring that **different wine cultures and consumer perspectives are represented** during the evaluation process.

The organisation of the competition began weeks before the judging itself. When arranging the wines into tasting flights, organisers considered factors such as wine style, colour, sugar content, vintage and ageing profile. Sample preparation took place in a separate room, guaranteeing full anonymity and an uninterrupted judging process, while the precise work of the coordinators continuously supported the jury panels.

The modern technological background of the judging process was once again provided by the **WineCompass judging software developed by Borkult**, enabling fast, accurate and transparent scoring. The system processed and compared data in real time, helping professional consensus to be reached efficiently while providing reliable support for sample identification, analysis and evaluation. **In accordance with OIV regulations, no more than 30% of the entered wines could receive Grand**





Gold, Gold or Silver medals, meaning that the awarded wines once again represented the very best of an exceptionally strong international field.

Let's see the Results

This year's VinAgora International Wine Competition featured the strongest field in the history of the event. A record-breaking total of **1,054 wines from 17 countries were entered** into the prestigious international competition. Although 77% of the entries were Hungarian wines, the high number and diversity of foreign entries was particularly remarkable.

A total of **239 foreign wines were entered** this year, representing one of the strongest international participations of recent years. The field offered a comprehensive snapshot of the diversity of today's wine world, with samples arriving in Budapest from countries ranging from Spain and Brazil to Lebanon, New Zealand and Argentina. Spain submitted the highest number of foreign entries with 89 wines, while Brazil also showed a particularly strong presence with 35 wines. Alongside France, Croatia, Italy and Slovakia, even distant wine-producing countries such as Australia were represented.

More than half of the entered wines were white wines, including sparkling and semi-sparkling styles. A total of **588 white wine entries** were registered, accounting for 56% of all entries. **Red wines represented 34% of the field with 356 samples**, while **110 rosé** wines were entered, making up approximately 10% of the competition.

Sparkling categories continue to enjoy significant popularity: **107 sparkling wines** and traditional method sparkling wines were entered, while 28 pearl wines were registered. The entry figures clearly demonstrate the continuing popularity of lighter, fresher wine styles among consumers.

At the same time, the competition closely follows changing wine consumption trends. In 2026, a new category for **dealcoholised wines was introduced**, immediately attracting 17 entries. This clearly reflects the growing importance of health-conscious and mindful consumption trends within the international wine market.

Starting with the highest distinctions, Champion winners were announced **in 8 categories this year, while 17 Grand Gold medals were awarded**. Only around 2% of all entered wines achieved these top recognitions.





A total of 220 wines received Gold medals, representing more than one-fifth of all entries, **while 100 wines were awarded Silver medals**. In addition, **315 wines received the Commended distinction**, awarded to wines that narrowly missed the elevated Silver medal threshold but nevertheless stood out clearly from the field with their exceptional quality.

Let's start with the best wines in each main category, the Champion award-winning wines:

Still White Wine Category: **Dúne Borbirtok - Béla Borászat - Dúne Selection Rajnai Rizling 2023**

Still Rosé Wine Category: **Pécsinger Szőlőbirtok – Pannonhalmi Rosé First 2025**

Still Red Wine Category: **Günzer Roland - Hála 2023**

Sparkling Wine Category: **Kreinbacher Birtok - Kreinbacher Prestige Brut Magnum 2019**

Natural Sweet Wine Specialties Category: **Maison aux Pois - Késői szüret 2024**

Botrytised Wine Category: **Grand Tokaj - Millieu Tokaji Aszú 6 puttonyos 2013**

Pearl Wine Category: **Gál Szőlőbirtok és Pincészet - Gál Anna Rosa rozé gyöngyözőbor 2025**

De-alcoholised or Partially De-alcoholised Wine Category: **Familia Torres - Natureo Muscat De-Alcoholised 0.0 2025**

The winners of the Champion Awards are selected exclusively from dry wines in the white, rosé and red wine categories, while in the sparkling wine category only brut wines produced using the traditional method are eligible. The Champion-winning wines are chosen by the presidents of the judging committees through a parallel blind tasting process. In each category, only wines awarded at least a Gold Medal may compete, with the five highest-scoring wines advancing to the final selection. This year, due to a tie in scores in the still white wine and natural sweet wine specialties categories, the absolute winners were ultimately selected from six wines

If at least 15 samples are entered from a given grape variety, the highest-scoring wine within that variety category — provided it has achieved at least a Gold Medal — receives the title “VinAgora Best Hungarian Varietal Wine”, which is also indicated on the diploma. Only varietal wines whose winemaking style preserves and expresses the characteristic traits of the grape variety are eligible for this award. Therefore, for example, a Merlot rosé may qualify for the title, while a Furmint aszú or a Pinot noir-based sparkling wine cannot compete for it.



**This year's Best Hungarian Varietal Wines are:**

Cabernet franc: **Günzer Tamás Pincészete – Bocor Villányi Franc 2023**

Kékfrankos 1: **Streit-Zagonyi Borászat - Kékfrankos rosé 2025**

Kékfrankos 2: **Szentpéteri Borpince - Kékfrankos rosé 2025**

Irsai Olivér 1: **Tar Pincészet - Pannonhalmi Irsai Olivér 2025**

Irsai Olivér 2: **Koronczai Pincészet - Irsai Olivér 2025**

Cabernet sauvignon: **Agárdi Csóbor Pincészet - Agárdi Örökláng 2021**

Olaszrizling: **Dobosi Birtok – Bio 14,47 Olaszrizling 2023**

Chardonnay: **Tar Pincészet - Pannonhalmi Chardonnay 2024**

Rajnai rizling: **Dúne Borbirtok - Béla Borászat - Dúne Selection Rajnai Rizling 2023**

Sauvignon blanc: **Vylyan Pincészet - Sauvignon Blanc 2025**

Syrah: **Koch Borászat – Syrah 2022**

Pinot noir: **Pécsinger Szőlőbirtok - Pannonhalmi Rosé First 2025**

Furmint: **Sike Balázs Pincéje - SBP Badacsonyi Furmint 2023**

Merlot: **Haraszthy Pincészet - Alma Mater 2023**

If at least 10 samples are received from a foreign country, the highest scoring wine from the nominated samples will receive a special prize (Best of Country), which this year goes to the following wines:

Best of Brazil: **Vinícola Campestre Ltda. - Zanotto Malbec Reserva 2022**

Best of France: **Château Plagnac - Doréan Brut Idylle NV**

Best of Italy: **Coppi - Don Antonio Primitivo I.G.P. 2017**

Best of Slovakia: **Chateau Grand Bari s.r.o. - Tokajský výber 6-putňový 2019**

Best of Spain: **J. García Carrión - Pata Negra Ribera Del Duero Roble 2023**

Best of Croatia: **Vina Belje - Savoj Orange 2024**

Several special awards were also presented at the 27th VinAgora International Wine Competition:

Csonka és Fiai Kft. Special Award for the “Most successful family winery”:

Gál Szőlőbirtok és Pincészet (Kunság Wine Region)





Out of eleven entered wines, the winery achieved 1 Champion Award, 4 Gold Medals, 4 Silver Medals and 2 Commended distinctions.

Vince Magazin Special Award for the “VinAgora discovery”:

Tar Pincészet (Pannonhalma Wine Region)

Amorim Cork Hungary Zrt. Special Award for two “Wineries committed to the use of natural cork closures”:

Vinatus Pincészet (Villány Wine Region)

Grand Tokaj (Tokaj Wine Region)

Molino Kft. Special Award for the “Most successful young winemaker”:

Fodor Borbirtok (Balatonfüred–Csopak Wine Region)

Evocask Special Award for the “Most successful wine using innovative ageing technology”:

Maison aux Pois (Tokaj Wine Region)

Shoprenter Special Award, “Harvest more revenue online”, awarded to:

Angyal Borászat (Tokaj Wine Region)

Bock Borászat (Villány Wine Region)

Csányi Pincészet (Villány Wine Region)

Eszterbauer Borászat (Szekszárd Wine Region)

Etyeki Kúria (Etyek–Buda Wine Region)

Frittmann Borászat (Kunság Wine Region)

Fritz Borház (Szekszárd Wine Region)

Nimfeum Borászat (Badacsony Wine Region)

Tringa Borpince (Szekszárd Wine Region)

Varga Pincészet (Badacsony Wine Region)

The Prix VINO FED special award is granted by the World Federation of Major International Wine and Spirits Competitions in four categories, based on an unified set of rules applied across all competitions organized by its member organizations. The award follows the same evaluation criteria as the VinAgora Champion selection process; therefore, wines receiving the Champion title in the





categories of still dry white, red and rosé wines, as well as brut sparkling wines, automatically also receive the VINO FED special award.

Prix VINO FED – Still Dry White Wine:

Dúne Borbirtok - Béla Borászat - Dúne Selection Rajnai Rizling 2023

Prix VINO FED – Still Dry Red Wine:

Günzer Roland - Hála 2023

Prix VINO FED – Still Dry Rosé Wine:

Pécsinger Szőlőbirtok – Pannonhalmi Rosé First 2025

Prix VINO FED – Brut Traditional Method Sparkling Wine:

Kreinbacher Birtok - Kreinbacher Prestige Brut Magnum 2019

Our Thanks to Those Who Made It Possible

The 27th VinAgora International Wine Competition was once again made possible through the support and dedication of numerous valued partners and sponsors, whose professional contribution and special offerings helped elevate the standard of the event. The competition was once again hosted at the **Budapest Congress Center**, providing a professional setting worthy of an international wine competition. The detailed results of the competition will be published in the VinAgora supplement of the June issue of **Vince Magazine**.

Molino Kft., a leading company in the field of printing and promotional display solutions, recognized the work of one winery owner with a special award including a custom beach flag and roll-up display package. As a key partner of the competition, **Amorim Cork Hungary** awarded two selected wineries with 1,000 premium-quality cork stoppers each. **Evocask** honored outstanding achievements in innovative ageing technology by offering a special prize: an ageing tank worth more than HUF 1 million. **Shoptenter** provided ten wineries with Silver webshop packages worth HUF 200,000 each, including one year of webshop rental and online sales support.

During the judging sessions, **Culinaris** supplied naturally pure Szigetközi mineral water, helping maintain the sensory freshness of the jury members, while also contributing a special award to the competition. The premium lead-free crystal tasting glasses were provided by **Csonkagroup**,





significantly supporting the precise and nuanced evaluation of the wines. The company also presented a special award and a Beezer rapid wine cooler worth EUR 590 to one winery. The flawless cleanliness of the glasses was ensured by **Winterhalter**'s professional washing systems, guaranteeing the high technical standard of the judging process.

Wine preparation was carried out with great dedication by students of the **Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences**, while professional wine service was provided by the students of the **István Soós Secondary School of Winemaking and Vocational Education**.

The professional supervision of the competition was carried out by the experts delegated by the two patron organizations, **Marina Garcia Gonzalez (VINOFED)** and **Dr. Reinhard Eder (OIV)**, both of whom found the organization and professional standard of the competition impeccable in every respect.

The Gold Medal-winning wines of the VinAgora International Wine Competition will be presented to the public on **May 22 at VinAgora Prestige – a walk-around tasting** of awarded wines held at the **Winehub Wine Center**. In addition to the Gold Medal-winning wines, visitors will also be able to taste wines receiving VinAgora's newly introduced Commended distinction.

VinAgora Prestige offers a unique opportunity for wine lovers and professionals alike to discover the competition's most outstanding wines in one place. Most of the featured wines will remain available on the shelves of Winehub Wine Center for 60 days following the event.

Further information is available at the following link: (Hungarian)

<https://vinagora.hu/hu/hirek/vinagora-prestige-ermes-borok-kostoloja-a-winehubban>

More information and the full list of results can be found on the official VinAgora website:

<https://vinagora.hu/en>

More information:

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Photos of the wine competition

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