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PRODUCERS OF THE YEAR

We have occasionally given out awards to producers who we think have done exceptionally well. This year, as the competition has grown, we found three – all worthy winners in their fields.

EUROPEAN PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

CHATEAU DE SAINT COSME, RHONE, FRANCE

2 GOLD, 2 SILVER, 2 BRONZE

This southern Rhône producer might be best known for its estate wines, but it was Saint Cosme's negociant wines that performed brilliantly here. Not only did it dominate the white Rhône category with its two excellent Golds, but two of its well-priced Rhône reds – a Côtes du Rhône and a Gigondas – secured Silvers, and a decent southern French Viognier/Muscat/Sauvignon scored Bronze alongside its other Côtes du Rhône red, Les Deux Albions. Website: saintcosme.com; UK supplier: Bibendum Wine



EUROPEAN PRODUCER

NEW WORLD PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

SAINT CLAIR FAMILY ESTATE, MARLBOROUGH, NEW ZEALAND

2 GOLD, 2 SILVER, 1 BRONZE

Saint Clair has always done well in the Sommelier Wine Awards, but this was a good year even by its exalted standards. Beyond the sheer number of awards, the judges were impressed with the way in which it picked up medals in a variety of styles: there were Golds for a botrytis Riesling and a Sauvignon Blanc, Silvers for a Sauvignon and a Chardonnay, plus a Bronze for a Pinot Noir that attracted a lot of positive comment but was just felt to be too young. Website: saintclair.co.nz; UK supplier: HallgartenDruitt



NEW WORLD PRODUCER

HOUSE WINE PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

VINA EMILIANA, CHILE

2 GOLD, 1 SILVER, 1 BRONZE

We probably won't be handing this award out every year, because it's exceptionally rare for one producer to strike Gold (literally) with wines in both the red and white categories, but the Chilean Viña Emiliana managed it this year for its Colchagua Carmenère and its Casablanca Sauvignon Blanc. At £5.00 each, they were comfortably under the House Wine price limit and represent exceptional (and organic!) value for money. Website: emiliana.cl, UK supplier: Boutinot



HOUSE WINE PRODUCER

