



AND THE WINNER IS...

Find out the world's top wines - every style and every price - from the best wine competition on earth. ALL in one issue



ALSACE GOLD MEDAL WINNERS AT A GLANCE

GOLD WHITE DRY OVER £10

DOMAINE PAUL BLANCK ET FILS, Riesling, Grand Cru Schlossberg 2002

The nose is lovely, rich and evolved Riesling, and there is bags of fruit on the palate; which leads onto a rich, clean, tangy finish. Up to 4 years.
UK: £17-18.50; Adn, Jer, Lay, Wai
US: \$32.50; USMSW

BRONZE WHITE DRY OVER £10

DOMAINE PAUL BLANCK ET FILS, Riesling, Grand Cru Furstentum 2002

Quite broad nose. Classic, mellow, evolved Riesling palate, off-dry, elegant, well balanced. Drink now.
UK: £18.50; Jer, Lay
US: \$35; USMSW

DOMAINE PAUL BLANCK ET FILS, Pater Garten Tokay Pinot Gris 2004

Rich, clean, precise Tokay Pinot Gris with good potential spice. Nice to find a dry one! Up to 4 years.
UK: £13.49; Rei
US: \$24; USMSW



THE RESULTS



REGIONAL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

ALSACE

TOM STEVENSON

'It's good to see little-known producers battle it out with the more famous names. As all Alsace-lovers know, it's a region with hundreds of growers waiting to be discovered'

REGIONAL CHAIR'S REPORT: ALSACE

TASTING WITH TOM STEVENSON

■ **Gearoid Devaney** is head sommelier at Tom Aikens restaurant in London. He has previously worked for the three-Michelin-starred Pierre Gagnaire restaurant in Paris, and the two-Michelin-starred Capital Hotel in London, as well as at Château Rahoul, Graves, Bordeaux. He has been in the wine trade for nine years.

■ **Liz Morcem MW** passed her MW in 1982. She is the wine correspondent for *House & Garden* magazine and also turns her hand to freelance wine writing, consultancy and lecturing.

■ **Marcel Orford-Williams** is a buyer for The Wine Society. He began working there in 1986 and has become hooked on Alsace wines.

For Tom Stevenson's profile, see p30

THOUGH THE NUMBER of Alsace wines has tripled since the first year, this year's total of 51 wines is just five up on 2005, a disappointment. The results from such a tiny microcosm do not do justice to one of the world's classic regions. That should in no way detract from the stunning quality displayed by any of the award-winners though, particularly the Trophy and Gold medal winners. But everyone on the panel was well aware of the hundreds of other exceptional wines that could and should have been garnering Golds.

The 2002s and 2004s stood out, perhaps because very few of the exceptionally elegant 2001s were entered, vintages having moved on. The 2003s were generally best forgotten because of their appallingly low acidity, although a couple did get through and one, the Stenz-Buecher Pinot Gris Marken, walked off with a Silver medal and a 'Do-not-drink-for-decades' warning. It was excruciatingly sweet, but on the whole the panel was impressed and pleasantly surprised by the number of genuinely dry wines. Not that we don't appreciate sweeter styles. The panel adored the sensuously

mature Riesling Vendanges Tardives 1998 from Schoenbeitz, but we felt such wines should be a speciality in Alsace. There is sufficient flexibility in the niche designations of Vendanges Tardives and Sélection de Grains Nobles without the need to confuse consumers by turning the basic varietal, lieu-dit and grand cru appellations into a mish-mash of dry, sweet and everything between.

It's good to see little-known producers like Schoenbeitz battle it out with the more famous names such as Weinbach, Schlumberger, Muré and Blanck, who should do well, and certainly do. Not that the Schoenbeitz family are new - they've been at it since the 17th century. But as all Alsace-lovers know, it's a region with hundreds of growers waiting to be discovered.

DWWA is a young competition and each year we learn, adapt and perfect. This year, we realised there was no regional aromatic trophy. The thought did not occur to us in previous years because we had no Gold Gewurztraminers, but Schlumberger's Gewurztraminer Grand Cru Kitterlé 2002 would have been so honoured. And if any wine had the best chance of such an accolade, it should surely be an Alsace...