

The WineHunter Award 2024: the guide that rewards the best in food and wine is published, selected by the 14 committees led by Helmuth Köcher.

Available online from August 16th on The WineHunter website, the guide is dedicated to the best food and wine references carefully selected by The WineHunter tasting committees: a total of 8000 wines and more than 500 products across the categories of food, spirits, and beer were candidates for the selections. Among the awards with the highest scores, the TOP 100 wines candidates for The WineHunter Platinum Award stand out, with the awards ceremony taking place on November 8th at the Merano WineFestival.

Merano (BZ), August 19th, 2024 – The result of careful research and selection by the 14 tasting committees coordinated by Helmuth Köcher, The WineHunter Award guide honors the Wine, Food, Spirit, and Beer excellences tasted throughout the year, assigning them scores corresponding to The WineHunter Award Rosso and The WineHunter Award Gold titles: among these, there are also the candidates for The WineHunter Award Platinum. The winners of the highest prize of the Guide will be revealed during the award ceremony, to be held on November 8th, during the 33rd edition of Merano WineFestival, the most glamorous event in the food and wine panorama.

Out of over 8000 wines tasted, 4813 received the coveted The WineHunter award: 3390 labels were awarded The WineHunter Award Rosso, which distinguishes products that scored between 90 and 92.99 points, while 1423 references obtained The WineHunter Award Gold (93-94.99 points). Among the latter, there are also the TOP 100 wine products candidates for the WineHunter Award Platinum, the recognition reserved for products of maximum excellence with a score higher than 95. In the Culinaria section, now divided into 3 different categories, 600 products were tasted in total. In the Food category of the Guide, there are 400 products, of which 147 obtained the WH Food Award Rosso and 221 the WH Food Award Gold. In the Spirits section, 130 labels were included in the 2024 selection, with 35 winners of the WH Spirit Award Rosso and 33 of the WH Spirit Award Gold. Finally, 70 beers tasted earned a place in The WineHunter 2024 Guide, with 9 references obtaining the Award Rosso and 9 the Award Gold.

The consultation of The WineHunter 2024 guide (available online on the website <https://winehunter.it/winehunter-award-2024/>) by professionals, enthusiasts, and wine & food lovers is free and allows you to know, in addition to the score and the respective awarded prize, all the details regarding the product and the related company. Coveted by the best wineries and beyond, The WineHunter Award represents the culmination of important research and selection work based on excellence, as well as a relevant reference in the national and international market, thanks to the figures of the WineHunter Ambassadors, buyers operating in various international markets who act as spokespersons for The WineHunter brand values.

"Together with the WineHunter Scouts and the members of the 14 tasting committees, between July 17th and 19th, 2024, we evaluated more than 400 wine samples to define the 100 excellences of 2024. It was a long selection process, and I am very proud of the work done and the assignment of the Awards," says Helmuth Köcher. "In general, we have noticed and recognized the increasing commitment of wineries in giving space to the fruit and its aromaticity, the territory, the natural characteristics of the grape variety which must be the absolute protagonist in the glass, also thanks to less use of wood. An example of this is the growing trend of rediscovering vinification in amphora, a practice that rediscovers the roots of winemaking while projecting itself into the future."

Research, discovery, and sharing of excellence: these are the values at the heart of The WineHunter project which, after the publication of the guide, invites enthusiasts and industry professionals to the 33rd edition of the Merano WineFestival, taking place from November 8th to 12th, 2024. Here, the national and international products selected by The WineHunter tasting committees will take center stage in the exclusive Kurhaus and GourmetArena, attended by thousands of visitors each year. Many appointments also enrich the prestigious

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Merano event: starting on November 8th with the day dedicated to bio&dynamica & more, which highlights the diverse world of organic, biodynamic wines, with the introduction of sections dedicated to Equalitas and SQNPI certified viticulture, resistant Piwi vines, and wines in amphora and underwater; on the same day, the novelty of the Round Table "Quo Vadis?" on the future of viticulture between new trends and the rediscovery of ancient techniques and methods, from the vineyard to the cellar; finally, from November 8th to 10th, the return of the Summit "Breath and Cry of the Earth" which addresses issues and proposes solutions related to the future of the wine world - and more generally agriculture - in the face of climate change. Numerous national and international guests will be involved in the entire program, including talks, conferences, show-cooking, and masterclasses united by the common thread of excellence in the food and wine field.

Tickets for the event are available online at meranowinefestival.vivaticket.it with the possibility of choosing a single day, as well as accreditation procedures dedicated to industry professionals (<https://meranowinefestival.com/accredito-operatori/>) and the press (<https://meranowinefestival.com/accredito-stampa/>).

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