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Platinum Best in Show White Blend over £15

Adrian & Diego Mathier, Cave Nouveau Salquenen, Ambassadeur des Domaines Diego Mathier Réserve, Valais, Switzerland 2014 (13.5%)

Intriguing aromas of citrus, wet straw, quince and orange zest. It is rich, creamy and full in body, with flavours of cooked butter, cinnamon, cocoa bean and sweetcorn. The palate has bright, cleansing acidity and structure, with a balanced use of oak and a zesty aftertaste.

N/A UK www.mathier.com

IN 2000, DIEGO Mathier became the fourth generation to take the helm at the family vineyards in the Salgesch sub-region of Valais. Six years ago he began to nurture the idea of creating an ultra-premium white wine.

His vision for the white, he says, was to create a wine with ageing potential that 'combines Alpine freshness with elegance, nobility, complexity and length'. He realised this ambition in 2013, making this Best in Show winner, which is just the second vintage.

Years of contemplation allowed him to identify the perfect blend. The 65% Savagin is grown at 850m altitude on the left bank of the Rhône, and contributes a subtle acid backbone. The Marsanne (25%), grown on the Rhône's right bank, acts as a counterpoint to the Savagin, bringing complexity, maturity and high potential alcohol. Finally, the Petite Arvine de Mollignon (10%) lends aromas and a discreet saline character.

Tasted against

■ Domaine de Nalys, Eichelénci, Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Rhône, France 2014 ■ Domaine du Cinquau, Ambitions, Jurançon Sec, Southwest France 2014 ■ Fattoria La Violla, Barriccato Bianco, Tuscany, Italy 2014 ■ Marisa Cuomo, Fiorduva, Costa d'Amalfi, Campania, Italy 2014 ■ Stella Bella, Suckfizzle Sauvignon Blanc-Semillon, Margaret River, Western Australia 2013 ■ Wieninger, Nussberg, Wiener Gemischter Satz, Vienna, Austria 2014

The winery produces about one million bottles of wine a year. Production of the 2014 vintage of this wine was 8,800 bottles, up from 4,329 the year before. The estate won a top award at last year's DWWA, for the 2013 vintage of this wine.



Above: based in Valais, this family-owned winery has an annual production of one million bottles