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## **“A distinct character unlike the rest of Europe” – winners announced in Star Wine List of the Year Baltics 2025**

**On September 15, international wine guide Star Wine List awarded Gold Stars in its first awards event of its 2025/'26 tour, to restaurants and wine bars in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The judges praised the exceptional quality and creativity of the Baltic states' wine programmes.**

Held alongside the Lithuanian Sommelier Championship, the awards ceremony brought together the top sommeliers and restaurateurs of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The biggest victors showcased the incredible diversity of Baltics' wine scene, a region that has recently produced some of the world's most talented sommeliers. Barents, from Riga, Latvia, demonstrated its curated excellence and sophistication by securing three Gold Stars, earning Gold Stars for the Best Italian Wine List, Best Sparkling Wine List, and Best Medium-Sized List. Sharing the spotlight was fellow Riga restaurant Riviera, which impressed the jury with its encyclopedic depth and dynamic program to win three Gold Stars, for Best Long List, Best By-the-Glass List, and Best Austrian Wine List.

The awards also celebrated a breakout star from Estonia: new opening Ecrin, Tallinn, made an immediate impact and proved a formidable new force by winning two Gold Stars – for Estonia's Best Newcomer List and Best Medium-Sized List. Meanwhile, SOMM the Wine Bar, in Vilnius, solidified its reputation as a Lithuanian powerhouse by winning the Gold Star for Best Austrian Wine List after the previous year's three Silver Stars and one Gold Star (2023) in the same category.

The finalists were evaluated by an expert jury panel including Master Sommelier Kathrine Larsen-Robert, Master of Wine Stephen Wong, and celebrated sommeliers Julie Dupouy-Young and Kamil Wojtasiak. Their selections recognise the passion and hard work that sommelier teams dedicate to building world-class wine lists.

“It is easy to see why the Baltics have nurtured some of the wine world's most dynamic modern talent,” explained Stephen Wong MW. “The best of these wine lists show a refined understanding of contemporary wine, its key producers and the various directions in which the wine world is moving, without losing sight of where it has come from. This is not an easy task – and neither was the jury's



when it came to discussing its choices, late into the night! We believe this set of winners represents a truly Baltic perspective of vinous appreciation, poised at the crux of tradition and modernity with a distinct character unlike the rest of Europe.”

A win in one of the international categories in any regional contest means automatic entry into the Star Wine List of the Year International Final, to be held in June 2026.

## Winners

### INTERNATIONAL CATEGORIES:

#### Best Long List

For wine lists with more than 600 references

- Riviera, Riga, Latvia
- Time to Wine Kopli 6, Tallinn, Estonia

#### Best Medium-Sized List

Recognises the best wine list with 200-600 references

- Barents, Riga, Latvia
- Ecrin, Tallinn, Estonia
- Restaurant Pacai, Vilnius, Lithuania

#### Best Short List

Recognises the best wine list with fewer than 200 listings

- Demo Restoranas, Vilnius, Lithuania
- Restaurant B7, Riga, Latvia
- The Peacock Lounge, Tallinn, Estonia

#### Best Sparkling Wine List

Recognises the best list for sparkling wines

- Barents, Riga, Latvia
- Kristoforas, Vilnius, Lithuania
- Veino, Tallinn, Estonia



### **Best By-the-Glass List**

Recognises the best 'by-the-glass' list

- Gaspar's, Vilnius, Lithuania
- Riviera, Riga, Latvia
- Veino, Tallinn, Estonia

### **Best Newcomer List**

Recognises a venue that has recently opened

- Oecumene, Vilnius, Lithuania
- Clos[er], Riga, Latvia
- Ecrin, Tallinn, Estonia

### **Sustainability Prize**

Assesses the sustainable commitment of both the wine list and broader venue via a supplementary questionnaire submitted during the application process

- Demo Restoranas, Vilnius, Lithuania
- Fotografiska Tallinn, Tallinn, Estonia
- Pavāru Māja, Līgatnē, Latvia

### **Best Austrian Wine List**

Recognises the best list for the wines of Austria – a category presented by [Austrian Wine](#)

- Riviera, Riga, Latvia
- SOMM The Wine Bar, Vilnius, Lithuania
- Shang Shi, Tallinn, Estonia

### **Best Italian Wine List**

Recognises the best list for the wines of Italy – a category presented by [Pasqua](#)

- Barents, Riga, Latvia
- Monte Pacis, Kaunas, Lithuania
- Time to Wine Rotermanni, Tallinn, Estonia



### Special Jury Prize

- BABO, Riga, Latvia
- Monte Pacis, Kaunas, Lithuania
- Shang Shi, Tallinn, Estonia

Rewards a wine lovers' place that does something out of the ordinary

#### Media contact:

Asa Johansson  
Project Manager  
[asa@starwinelist.com](mailto:asa@starwinelist.com)  
+393389303056  
[starwinelist.com](http://starwinelist.com)

Photos: <https://starwinelist.com/media>

#### **About Star Wine List:**

**Star Wine List** is the award-winning guide to great wine bars and wine restaurants around the world. It is available as an app and at [starwinelist.com](http://starwinelist.com). It was launched in Stockholm (Sweden) in 2017, and is now live in more than 45 countries. All venues are selected by top wine professionals. **Star Wine List of the Year** is an international competition celebrating the wonderful wine lists of the world and the dedicated sommelier teams who create them. Since its inception in 2018, this global tour has evolved to cover numerous territories, hosting events that recognise excellence in the wine and hospitality industries.