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Star Wine List names the best wine lists in the UAE, with the first Gold Star for Abu Dhabi

The winners of Star Wine List of the Year UAE 2025 were announced at an awards ceremony in Dubai today, presented by ASI Best Sommelier of the World Raimonds Tomsons. This is the third competition that Star Wine List has hosted in the UAE, this year awarding its first Gold Star to a venue in Abu Dhabi.

On Monday 8th December 2025, Star Wine List revealed the best wine lists in the UAE at an awards ceremony held at Sexy Fish Dubai and presented by Founder and Publisher Krister Bengtsson alongside judges Raimonds Tomsons and Vincent Truong.

“The wine scenes in Dubai and Abu Dhabi have developed to a highly sophisticated level,” says Raimonds, “defined by world-class restaurants and wine bars showcasing wine lists with incredible regional depth. These wine programmes showcase everything from focused and exciting newcomer lists to expansive and long selections containing comprehensive verticals, mature vintages, and benchmark producers across Europe and key emerging regions of the world.

“The wine lists demonstrate a market that values both connoisseurship and curiosity and, with their knowledgeable teams and openness to global trends, these cities have established themselves as some of the most dynamic wine destinations in the world.”

Gold Stars were presented in 12 categories. Nine of those were “international” categories, which means that the winners will go on to compete in the Star Wine List International Final, to be held in June 2026.

For the second year in a row, Dubai’s FZN by Björn Frantzén took the Gold Stars for Best Long List and Best Sparkling Wine List, a coup for a restaurant that only opened just over a year ago. Double Golds were also presented to BOCA (Best Spanish Wine List; Sustainability Prize) and Dinner by Heston Blumenthal (Best California Wine List; Best Bordeaux Wine List). The first Gold Star in Abu Dhabi went to La Petite Maison (LPM).

The jury panel for Star Wine List of the Year UAE 2025 comprised four global wine experts:

- Raimonds Tomsons – Best Sommelier of the World 2023 (ASI)
- Mikk Parre – Best Sommelier of Europe, Africa and Middle East 2024 (ASI)
- Salvatore Castano – Best Sommelier of Europe and Africa 2021 (ASI)
- Vincent Truong – Dubai-based wine expert and educator

Scroll down for the full list of winners.



Useful links:

- [More information on Star Wine List of the Year UAE 2026](#)
- [Photos and media](#)

Gold Stars:

INTERNATIONAL CATEGORIES

Best Long List, presented by Château d'Esclans

For wine lists with more than 600 references

- FZN by Björn Frantzén, Dubai

Best Medium-Sized List

Recognises the best wine list with 200-600 references

- LPM, Abu Dhabi

Best Short List

Recognises the best wine list with fewer than 200 listings

- Tresind Studio, Dubai

Best Sparkling Wine List, presented by Perrier-Jouët

Recognises the best list for sparkling wines

- FZN by Björn Frantzén, Dubai

Best By-the-Glass List

Recognises the best 'by-the-glass' list

- Row on 45, Dubai

Best Newcomer List

Recognises a venue that has recently opened

- Kira Restaurant, Dubai

Sustainability Prize

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

- BOCA, Dubai

Best Italian Wine List, presented by Austrian Wine

- Il Gattopardo, Dubai

Special Jury Prize

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

- Nobu Dubai



LOCAL CATEGORIES:

Best California Wine List, presented by Pahlmeyer

Recognises the best list for the wines of California

- Dinner by Heston Blumenthal, Dubai

Best Spanish Wine List, presented by Familia Torres

Recognises the best list for the wines of Spain

- BOCA, Dubai

Best Bordeaux Wine List, presented by Château Tour des Termes

Recognises the best list for the wines of Bordeaux, France

- Dinner by Heston Blumenthal, Dubai

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About Star Wine List

Star Wine List is the international wine lovers' guide to great wine bars and restaurants. Available as an app and at 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 for the quality of their wine programmes.

*The **Star Wine List of the Year** competition celebrates 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. Its highly anticipated awards events recognise excellence in the wine and hospitality industries, and culminate in an International Final each summer.*