



## **The Wine Press wins Independent Drinks Retailer of the Year at the Drinks Retailing Awards**

An annual celebration of excellence in off-trade, the Drinks Retailing Awards 2024 saw Stourbridge-based retailer The Wine Press take home the Independent Drinks Retailer of the Year award.

Held on February 6 at The Dorchester Hotel in London, the DRAs 2024 highlighted the most outstanding independents in the country, including The Wine Press which was praised by judges for its first-rate customer service.

In the wine world, Dorset's Vineyards was awarded Independent Wine Retailer of the Year for the second year running, while Harvey Nichols took home the Champagne & Sparkling Retailer of the Year award.

**Independent Beer & Cider Retailer of the Year was awarded to Bath Road Beers in Cheltenham.** The Independent Spirits Retailer of the Year went to The Whisky Exchange thanks to its ever-evolving range of exclusives and limited-edition products.

Tenaya Wine celebrated its first DRAs win, securing the Newcomer of the Year title. Renowned indies were also celebrated, with Birmingham's Loki Wine being crowned Regional Chain of the Year award for the second year in a row.

Known for its excellent BWS range including a Beer Cave, Jaz's Premier in Grangemouth won the Convenience Drinks Retailer of the Year award. Finally, Vin Santo, a wine bar and shop based in Chester, was announced as the Hybrid Retailer of the Year after upgrading its selection of organic and natural wines.

*Drinks Retailing* editor Lucy Britner, said: "We continue to be blown away by the incredible standard in independent retail. Our winners were chosen from a shortlist of entrants who were able to demonstrate growth, innovation and excellent customer service. Our on-the-road judge Nigel Huddleston conducted mystery shops as well as interviews with the finalists, before feeding back to a panel of expert judges. To make it onto the shortlist is a huge achievement and to win is a mark of excellence. Congratulations to everyone."

Samantha Halliday, commercial director, added: "We saw exceptional standards once again from the independents this year. While there can only be one winner in each category, they are all heroes in their own right. These businesses have showcased innovation and business acumen. It's truly satisfying to know that the winners will proudly display the DRA badge, a symbol of trust. Well done!"

### **ONLINE AWARDS**

Celebrating the best in ecommerce, the Online Drinks Retailer of the Year award was given to Christopher Piper Wines; a Devon-based retailer that adopted a fully digital business operation during the pandemic.

Sip Champagnes, a dedicated Champagne retailer with a focus on independent producers, was awarded Specialist Online Drinks Retailer of the Year.



The Drinks Retailing Awards also celebrates multiple retailers.

#### **FULL LIST OF WINNERS**

- Newcomer of the Year - Tenaya Wine
- Convenience Drinks Retailer of the Year - Jaz's Premier, Grangemouth
- Independent Beer & Cider Retailer of the Year - Bath Road Beers
- Multiple Cider Retailer of the Year - Asda
- Multiple Beer Retailer of the Year - Co-op
- Independent Spirits Retailer of the Year - The Whisky Exchange
- Multiple Spirits Retailer of the Year - Tesco
- Independent Wine Retailer of the Year - Vineyards
- Multiple Wine Retailer of the Year - Marks & Spencer
- Drinks Buying Team of the Year - Majestic
- Champagne & Sparkling Retailer of the Year - Harvey Nichols
- Regional Chain of the Year - Loki Wine
- Multiple Low & No Alcohol Retailer of the Year - Waitrose
- Online Drinks Retailer of the Year - Christopher Piper Wines
- Specialist Online Drinks Retailer of the Year - Sip Champagnes
- Hybrid Retailer of the Year - Vin Santo
- Convenience Chain of the Year - Co-op
- Multiple RTD Retailer of the Year - Waitrose
- Sustainable Drinks Retailer of the Year - Waitrose
- Independent Drinks Retailer of the Year - The Wine Press
- Supermarket of the Year - Sainsbury's

#### **Notes to editors:**

The DRAs is organised in association with *Drinks Retailing* magazine, and the full results are published in print, digital editions and online.

For information about the judging process and the DRAs competition please visit [www.drinksretailingawards.co.uk](http://www.drinksretailingawards.co.uk). Details for the DRAs 2025 will be available May 2024.

For further detailed information, please contact the team at Agile Media on [DRA@agilemedia.co.uk](mailto:DRA@agilemedia.co.uk)

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