

**First Japanese Winery Selected for Top Wine Tourism Awards,  
“World’s Best Vineyards 2020”  
“Château Mercian Mariko Winery” Places at 30 in Global Ranking,  
Selected as Best Vineyard in Asia!  
Four Wineries Imported and Sold by Mercian Also On the List**

Château Mercian Mariko Winery (Ueda, Nagano Prefecture), operated by Mercian Corporation (President: Michio Nagabayashi) placed at number 30 in “World’s Best Vineyards 2020”, announced on Monday 13 July 2020. The Mariko Winery was also selected as Best Vineyard in Asia in these awards for the world's top wine tourism destinations.

Other winners include four whose wines are imported and sold by Mercian: Robert Mondavi Winery (USA) in 5th place, González Byass - Bodega Tío Pepe (Spain) in 18th place, Opus One (USA) in 20th place and Trapiche (Argentina) in 50th place.

● **“World’s Best Vineyards”**

“World's Best Vineyards” is organised and compiled by William Reed Business Media. The awards highlight the 50 best vineyards globally, and were started with the aim of guiding travellers to the finest wine experiences in the world. Now running for the second time, the awards were launched in 2019 by the same company that hosts the International Wine Challenge (IWC), the world's foremost wine competition.

William Reed Business Media also run “World's 50 Best Restaurants”, which has the same voting system as that used for wineries in “World's Best Vineyards”. Over 500 wine, gastronomy and travel specialists from all over the world evaluate wineries on a range of factors such as tours, tastings, atmosphere, wine quality, food, staff, surroundings, value for money, reputation and location and then vote for their top 7. The best 50 are at the top of the list of wineries nominated by this academy of experts. 1,800 wineries were nominated in 2020, with the top 50 receiving the award.

● **Prestigious Wineries Listed in “World’s Best Vineyards 2020”**

The list is a where’s where of the world's top wineries, including France’s eminent and long-established Château Margaux (22nd), Château d’Yquem (31st) and Château Mouton Rothschild (33rd), alongside successful Napa Valley wine resorts such as Opus One (20th) and Robert Mondavi (5th). Our Château Mercian Mariko Winery made the headlines not only for placing at number 30 in this prestigious list, but also for being selected as Best Vineyard in Asia. US media commented that this first win for Japan is an extraordinary achievement that represents the diversity of wineries across the globe.

● **How Château Mercian Mariko Winery Made the List (extract from official announcement)**

**(1) Descended from the oldest private wine company in Japan**

Château Mercian developed from the oldest private wine company in Japan, which was founded in 1877.\* It is the leading wine brand in Japan, producing world-renowned high-quality wines that express the essence of “Finesse and Elegance” at their three wineries: Katsunuma, Kikyogahara and Mariko.

The Mariko Winery, opened in 2019, is Château Mercian's newest. Its sprawling high-altitude vineyards on the Jinba Plateau outside Ueda, Nagano Prefecture, and the winery allows you to enjoy a panoramic view of both the vines and their magnificent natural surroundings.

\*Château Mercian has its roots in the Dai-Nihon Yamanashi Budoshu Gaisha company founded in August 1877.



## (2) Panoramic terrace with views over the extensive vineyards

The Château Mercian Mariko Winery serves over 10 wines, accompanied by local delicacies. The winery has a scenic outdoor terrace overlooking the extensive vineyards, where visitors can feel the breeze blowing through the vines while sampling wines and enjoying the view of Mount Asama and Mount Tateshina. Nearby Ippongi Park boasts beautiful cherry blossoms in spring, and views of the vineyard as it changes from summer through autumn.



## (3) Eight grape varieties and fascinating tours

Located at an altitude of 650 m, the Mariko Vineyard grows eight varieties of grape, mainly Chardonnay and Merlot. The winery also prides itself on its tours, such as the Mariko Walking and Lunch Tour where visitors can not only walk through the beautiful vineyard where grapes are being grown but also taste wine made from grapes grown on that very spot. Wines made at the Katsunuma Winery from the Japanese indigenous variety Koshu and Japanese hybrid Muscat Bailey A are also available to sample at the Mariko Winery.

### ● Reactions from Château Mercian

#### ■ Mitsuhiro Anzo, Château Mercian General Manager

I'm delighted that a Japanese winery was selected as one of the World's Best Vineyards 2020 alongside such famous overseas wineries. We will continue with our commitment to "Japan recognised as one of the world's foremost wine regions", ceaselessly promoting Japan as a wine region to ensure a future for Japan wine.



#### ■ Hironori Kobayashi, Château Mercian Mariko Winery General Manager

We're honoured that the Château Mercian Mariko Winery, that we created in cooperation with the community of Ueda in Nagano Prefecture, has been recognised at an international level. Being listed alongside such famous wineries takes my breath away. I want the winery to continue to develop with and remain dear to the hearts of the local community. This award inspires me to make wine that will confirm Mariko, Château Mercian, and Japan as one of the world's great wine regions.



### Messages of Congratulations from Winners with Wines Imported by Château Mercian

#### Robert Mondavi Winery (USA)

I would like to extend my congratulations to our Japanese distribution partner Château Mercian Mariko Winery, who was named best winery in Asia! It's a great privilege to be working with a company like Mercian, who share the same desire and passion to create wines of the highest quality and unforgettable consumer experiences.

#### González Byass - Bodega Tío Pepe (Spain)

We would like to congratulate our great friends at Château Mercian for their ranking in the World's Best Vineyards. This is well-deserved recognition for all the hard work that the team has put in to making the whole experience very memorable. Well done!

#### Opus One Winery (USA)

I sincerely congratulate you for becoming the first Japanese winery to receive such an honour.

#### Trapiche (Argentina)

On behalf of Grupo Peñaflor and our Asian team, we want to congratulate Château Mercian for this great honour. It's also incredible to know that our long term partner for the Japanese market share this great position with our winery as well. We hope this can bring both companies the opportunity to keep working together for many years more with the same goal of being better every day.

**● Four Winning Wineries Imported by Mercian Corporation****No. 5: Robert Mondavi Winery (USA)**

Founder Robert Mondavi set out to make fine wine in California when it was still an emerging region, with a dedication that earned him the title of “father of Californian wine”. The To Kalon vineyard propelled Californian wines onto the global stage, and the winery is famous for events such as its summer concert. It ranked highest in North America and at No. 5 overall.

**No. 18: González Byass - Bodega Tío Pepe (Spain)**

The history of González Byass, one of the companies instrumental in making sherry a household term around the world, stretches back to its foundation in 1835. Based in the historic region of Jerez de la Frontera and holding the world’s largest collection of sherry, this iconic winery with a rich history comes in at No. 18.

**No. 20: Opus One Winery (USA)**

Opus One, the fruit of a collaboration between American Robert Mondavi and the French Château Mouton Rothschild in 1979, was key to establishing the reputation of California wine. The great achievements of Opus One and second wine Overture, in combination with the sublime winery buildings which combine modern and classic elements, earned Opus One the No. 20 spot.

**No. 50: Trapiche (Argentina)**

The winery was founded in 1883 in Mendoza, Argentina by Don Tiburcio Benegas. A pioneer in the cultivation and fermentation of Malbec, he made an unmistakable contribution to the development of Argentinian wine. In a superb location with views of the Andes, the winery houses the famed Espacio Trapiche restaurant, one of the factors behind its listing at No. 50.

True to our wine business slogan of “Creating a pleasant future with wine,” Mercian Corporation will continue to offer wines that bring people together to enjoy each other’s company and spend quality time.