



July 13, 2018

Chardonnay on top as Australia's finest drop

A Chardonnay has crushed the competition for the second year in a row, with a wine from the Yarra Valley crowned Grand Champion Wine of Show at the Royal Queensland Wine Show (RQWS) Awards at the Brisbane Showgrounds today.

The Coldstream Hills Reserve Chardonnay has been described by Chief Judge David Bicknell as “a drop that would hold its own against wines from anywhere in the world.”

“This was a precise, complex, balanced wine with length and finesse,” he said.

“Australians are making Chardonnay exceptionally well and given the conditions were so favourable in southern Australia, it's no surprise a Chardonnay from Victoria won.”

The Grand Champion Wine of Show was last year awarded to Xanadu Wines Reserve Chardonnay 2015 from the Margaret River.

Meanwhile the historic Stodart Trophy for Best Young Red Table Wine of Show was taken out by a Grenache for the very first time.

SC Pannell Wines, McLaren Vale, won the award for their Basso Garnacha which Mr Bicknell described as “fragrant, supple and flavoursome with great texture.”

“Winemakers have been endeavouring to increase the quality of Grenache wines produced in Australia, so we saw a high number of medals, including golds, in the Grenache and Grenache based blends.”

A total of 1,798 wines from 254 Australian wineries were entered in the competition this year, with the 26 strong panel of expert judges pleased with the quality.

“The highlights this year were the Chardonnay, Cabernet, young Pinot Noir and young Grenache classes,” Mr Bicknell said.

“I saw a real buzz with the judging group when they assessed these classes - you see this when judging high quality wines.”

Around 900 people will now get the rare chance to taste the RQWS entries, including the award-winners and new vintage of season, at the Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show (RQFWS) Grape Grazing by Night - Celebrating Australian Wine event.

The RQWS dates back to 1876, giving Australian wineries exposure by helping to promote the nation's diverse growing regions, the winemakers and their exceptional drops.

Below are the 2018 Trophy winners. The full results catalogue is now available at www.rqfws.com.au



2018 TROPHY AWARD WINNERS

THE MALDWYN AND IAN DAVIES BEST SPARKLING WINE OF SHOW

Domaine Chandon - Chandon Blanc de Blancs

BEST RIESLING WINE OF SHOW

Jim Barry Wines - Watervale Riesling

BEST SEMILLON WINE OF SHOW

Australian Vintage - McGuigan Bin 9000 Semillon

BEST SAUVIGNON BLANC OR SEMILLON & SAUVIGNON BLANC BLEND WINE OF SHOW

Stella Bella - Stella Bella Sauvignon Blanc

THE AO FLEMING BEST CHARDONNAY WINE OF SHOW

Coldstream Hills - Coldstream Hills Reserve Chardonnay

BEST PINOT GRIS / GRIGIO WINE OF SHOW

Bird in Hand - Bird in Hand Pinot Gris

BEST SINGLE WHITE VARIETAL WINE OF SHOW

Symphony Hill Wines - Symphony Hill Wines 2017 Gewurztraminer

BEST SWEET WHITE WINE OF SHOW

d'Arenberg - The Noble Botryotinia Fuckeliana

BEST YOUNG WHITE TABLE WINE OF SHOW

Coldstream Hills - Coldstream Hills Reserve Chardonnay

BEST MATURE WHITE TABLE WINE OF SHOW

Australian Vintage - McGuigan Bin 9000 Semillon

BEST SINGLE VINEYARD WHITE TABLE WINE OF SHOW

Brokenwood Wines - Brokenwood Indigo Vineyard Chardonnay

RNA BEST WHITE TABLE WINE OF SHOW

Coldstream Hills - Coldstream Hills Reserve Chardonnay

BEST ROSÉ WINE OF SHOW

Tahbilk - Tahbilk 2017 Rose

THE DR BILL RYAN BEST PINOT NOIR WINE OF SHOW

Montalto Vineyards - Montalto Tuerong Block Pinot Noir



BEST GRENACHE, RED RHONE VARIETAL OR RHONE BLEND WINE OF SHOW

S C Pannell Wines - S.C.Pannell Basso Garnacha

THE ALAN COOK MBE TROPHY BEST MERLOT, CABERNET SAUVIGNON OR CABERNETS BLEND WINE OF SHOW

Ringbolt - Ringbolt Cabernet Sauvignon

THE WINE GUILD OF AUSTRALIA INC (QUEENSLAND) BEST SHIRAZ/CABERNET BLEND WINE OF SHOW

W Salter & Son - Pepperjack Barossa Shiraz Cabernet Sauvignon

BEST SINGLE RED VARIETAL WINE OF SHOW

Saltram Wine Estate - Saltram Winemakers Selection Sangiovese

BEST SHIRAZ WINE OF SHOW

Killerby Wines - Killerby K Shiraz

BEST RED BLEND WINE OF SHOW

De Bortoli Wines - La Boheme Act 4 Syrah Gamay

BEST SINGLE VINEYARD RED TABLE WINE OF SHOW

Montalto Vineyards - Montalto Tuerong Block Pinot Noir

RNA BEST RED TABLE WINE OF SHOW

S C Pannell Wines - S.C.Pannell Basso Garnacha

BEST FORTIFIED WINE OF SHOW

Morris Wines - Old Premium Rare Muscat

THE COURIER-MAIL BEST QUEENSLAND WINE OF SHOW

Symphony Hill Wines - Symphony Hill Wines 2017 Gewurztraminer

LENDLEASE MOST SUCCESSFUL QUEENSLAND EXHIBITOR OF SHOW

Symphony Hill Wines

THE STODART TROPHY BEST YOUNG RED TABLE WINE OF SHOW

S C Pannell Wines - S.C.Pannell Basso Garnacha

GRAND CHAMPION WINE OF SHOW TROPHY

Coldstream Hills - Coldstream Hills Reserve Chardonnay

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Media Release



MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

Veronica Carew
General Manager Communications
Ph: 07 3253 3930/ 0408 323 631
Email: vcarew@rna.org.au

Nicole Clifton
Media and Communications Officer
Ph: 07 3253 3931/ 0417 451 775
Email: nclifton@rna.org.au