



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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