



July 8, 2016

Australia's finest wine sparkles as it makes history

A Tasmanian wine has made history by becoming the first sparkling to take out The Courier-Mail Grand Champion Wine of Show at the Royal Queensland Wine Show (RQWS) Awards announced at the Brisbane Showgrounds this morning.

The quality of the House of Arras 2007 Grand Vintage has been described by Chief Judge David Bicknell as being “up there with some of the great champagne houses.”

“The complexity and depth was outstanding, it’s just such a high quality product,” he said.

“It’s rare for sparkling wines to get the recognition in wine shows they often deserve.”

The historic Stodart Trophy, for Best Young Red of Show, went to Yabby Lake in the Mornington Peninsula for their 2015 Single Vineyard Pinot Noir.

It’s the first time in recent history a pinot noir has taken out the Stodart Trophy, with shiraz usually dominating.

“The pinot noir managed finesse and power at the same time, which is very tricky to get right in that variety,” Mr Bicknell said.

“It shows where we’ve managed to get to in making pinot noir in this country in a relatively short time, even the South Australian judges were voting for it.”

A total of 1,801 entries were received from 243 wineries in some of Australia’s top wine regions including the Barossa Valley, Yarra Valley, Hunter Valley, Margaret River, Tasmania and the Granite Belt in Queensland.

“It was great to see a cross section of winning wines from across the country, no state dominated which was pleasing as it shows the depth of quality nationally.

“The competition was very close which delighted the judges, as the wines were all at the top end.”

The 26 strong panel of expert judges were also pleased to see alternative varieties doing well, along with the fine wines from small producers.

“It was good to see alternative varieties like roussanne winning a trophy,” Mr Bicknell said.

“The quality of some of these alternative varieties has greatly improved - they’ve moved from being a bit of a circus show to being part of the main show.



“It’s also great to see small producers from far flying corners winning trophies, alongside the large companies.”

This was Mr Bicknell’s first year at the helm of the prestigious competition, after taking over the chief judging role from PJ Charteris.

“It was a pleasure to be the chief judge of the competition which has gone through significant positive change in the last three years and I look forward to adding to these improvements,” he said.

The public will have the chance to be the judge tonight at the RQWS ‘Grape Grazing by Night – Celebrating Australian Wine’ event. For tickets and details visit www.rqfws.com.au

2016 TROPHY AWARD WINNERS

THE MALDWYN AND IAN DAVIES BEST SPARKLING OF SHOW

House of Arras - 2007 Grand Vintage

BEST RIESLING OF SHOW

Robert Oatley Signature Series - 2014 Great Southern Riesling

BEST SEMILLON OF SHOW

Brokenwood - 2009 ILR Reserve Semillon

BEST SEMILLON & SAUVIGNON BLANC BLEND OF SHOW

Amelia Park - 2016 Trellis Sauvignon Blanc Semillon

THE AO FLEMING BEST CHARDONNAY OF SHOW

Fraser Gallop Estate - 2014 Parterre Chardonnay

BEST PINOT GRIS OF SHOW

Brown Brothers Milawa Vineyard - 2015 Tamar Ridge Pinot Gris

BEST OTHER SINGLE WHITE VARIETAL OF SHOW

St Huberts Wines - 2015 Roussanne

BEST SWEET WHITE OF SHOW

De Bortoli Wines - 2013 Noble One

BEST YOUNG WHITE OF SHOW

St Huberts Wines - 2015 Roussanne

BEST MATURE WHITE OF SHOW

Brokenwood - 2009 ILR Reserve Semillon



BEST SINGLE VINEYARD WHITE OF SHOW

Brokenwood - 2009 ILR Reserve Semillon

RNA BEST WHITE OF SHOW

Brokenwood - 2009 ILR Reserve Semillon

BEST ROSE OF SHOW

Bird in Hand - 2016 D & B Rose

BEST PINOT NOIR OF SHOW

Yabby Lake - 2015 Single Vineyard Pinot Noir

BEST GRENACHE & RHONE STYLE RED OF SHOW

Bleasdale Vineyards - 2015 GSM

THE ALAN COOK MBE TROPHY BEST CABERNETS BLENDS OF SHOW

Deep Woods Estate - 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot

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

Jim Barry Wines - 2014 The Barry Brothers Shiraz Cabernet Sauvignon

BEST OTHER SINGLE VARIETAL RED OF SHOW

Kemeny's Food & Liquor - 2014, '1960 Bleasdale The Pioneer Malbec'

ACCOR BEST CABERNET SAUVIGNON OF SHOW

Forester Estate - 2014 Yelverton Reserve Cabernet

BEST SHIRAZ OF SHOW

Norfolk Rise Vineyard - 2015 Shiraz

BEST OTHER RED BLEND OF SHOW

S. C. Pannell - 2015 Touriga Cabernet Mataro

BEST MATURE RED OF SHOW

Xanadu Wines - 2013 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

BEST SINGLE VINEYARD RED OF SHOW

Yabby Lake - 2015 Single Vineyard Pinot Noir

RNA BEST RED OF SHOW

Yabby Lake - 2015 Single Vineyard Pinot Noir

BEST FORTIFIED OF SHOW

Morris Wines - Morris Old Premium Rare Liqueur Muscat



Media Release



BEST QUEENSLAND WINE OF SHOW

Symphony Hill Wines - 2013 Reserve Petit Verdo

MOST SUCCESSFUL QUEENSLAND EXHIBITOR OF SHOW

Symphony Hill Wines

THE DAN O'CONNOR TROPHY MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR OF SHOW

Wolf Blass Wines

THE STODART TROPHY BEST YOUNG RED OF SHOW

Yabby Lake - 2015 Single Vineyard Pinot Noir

THE COURIER-MAIL GRAND CHAMPION WINE OF SHOW TROPHY

House of Arras - 2007 Grand Vintage

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